United Nations S/2014/558

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

I. Introduction and Mission priorities

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and requested that I report at regular intervals on the implementation of its mandate. It covers the activities of UNMIK and developments related thereto from 16 April to 15 July 2014.

2. The priorities of the Mission remain to promote security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region. In furtherance of its goals, UNMIK continues its regular engagement with Belgrade and Pristina, the communities in Kosovo and regional and international actors. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) continue to perform their roles within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) continues to be present, in line with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 26 November 2008 (S/PRST/2008/44) and my report of 24 November 2008 (S/2008/692). The United Nations agencies, funds and programmes continue to work closely with UNMIK.

II. Political developments

3. During the period under review, the main political developments centred on the formation of a new government in Serbia following parliamentary elections on 16 March and the holding of elections for the Assembly of Kosovo on 8 June. These developments, among other things, resulted in a slowdown in the European Union-facilitated dialogue. While no high-level meetings between representatives of Belgrade and Pristina were convened during the period, the European Union continued to facilitate discussions at the technical level on the implementation of various provisions of the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. On 22 May, Kosovo representatives also held meetings with European Union mediators in order to advance the implementation of technical aspects of the agreement on the freedom of movement reached between Belgrade and Pristina earlier. High-level talks are expected to resume once a new government has been formed in Pristina.

14-58364 (E) 080814

Please recycle

4. In Belgrade, the leader of the Serbian Progressive Party, Aleksandar Vučić, was designated Prime Minister, and the new coalition government was officially formed on 29 April. The coalition included the Socialist Party of Serbia, as well as smaller parties. The new government reaffirmed its commitment to the European Union-facilitated dialogue with Pristina and to the full implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement.

5. In Pristina, more than two thirds of the members of the Assembly of Kosovo, including a majority of representatives from the Kosovo Serb and other non-majority communities, voted, in an extraordinary session held on 7 May, to dissolve the Assembly, thus triggering an early election on 8 June. The election was conducted peacefully throughout Kosovo, including in the four Kosovo Serb majority municipalities in the north, under a unified legal framework. A total of 31 political entities, including 5 Kosovo Serb entities, participated in the elections, with 42.63 per cent of eligible voters (766,834 persons) casting ballots, compared with 45.29 per cent in the 2010 general election. Strong encouragement from Belgrade contributed to a voter turnout in the Serb majority municipalities of northern Kosovo comparable to the turnout in those municipalities during the Serbian general election of 16 March. Specifically, the turnout was 18.25 per cent in North Mitrovica, 35.86 per cent in Zubin Potok, 22.92 per cent in Zveçan/Zvečan and 26.85 per cent in Leposaviq/Leposavić.

6. In the six Kosovo Serb majority municipalities south of the Ibër/Ibar river, the average turnout was above that for Kosovo as a whole. A number of electoral reforms, which had been submitted to the Assembly prior to the election, were postponed. Partly as a result of that postponement, some concerns remained, in particular with respect to the accuracy of the list of voters, although an initial review did result in the removal of the names of some 20,000 deceased persons. Nonetheless, the number of eligible voters remains slightly higher than the overall population of Kosovo.

7. As in past elections, OSCE facilitated the conduct of elections in the Kosovo Serb majority municipalities in the north, providing guidance, advice and technical assistance to the election management bodies. OSCE also supported voting by mail for eligible voters residing in Serbia and Montenegro. About 150 OSCE staff were deployed to 94 polling stations in northern Kosovo to assist with the elections. The Kosovo police, EULEX and KFOR closely coordinated security activities during the election.

8. On 9 June, 96 members of a European Union election observation mission were deployed throughout Kosovo. The observers assessed the elections to have been transparent and well organized, while noting that the short time frame had had some adverse effects, including on the quality of the complaints and appeals processes and on the out-of-Kosovo voting process.

9. On 4 July, the Kosovo Central Election Commission certified the final election results. No single entity achieved an overall majority in the Kosovo Assembly. Among the Kosovo Albanian parties, the coalition led by the ruling Democratic Party of Kosovo obtained 30.4 per cent of the vote (earning 37 seats); next came the Democratic League of Kosovo, with 25.2 per cent (30 seats), Vetëvendosje, with 13.6 per cent (16 seats), the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, with 9.6 per cent (11 seats) and the newly created Initiative for Kosovo, with 5.15 per cent (6 seats). The political entities representing non-majority communities did not secure any

additional seats beyond the 20 guaranteed by the Constitution. Of the 10 seats guaranteed for the Kosovo Serb community, nine were won by the Civic Serb Initiative and one by the Progressive Democratic Party. Of the 10 seats guaranteed for other minority community parties, two were won by the Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo, for the Kosovo Turkish community; two were won by Coalition Vakat and one by the New Democratic Party, for the Kosovo Bosniak community; and the Democratic Party of the Ashkali of Kosovo, the Liberal Egyptian Party, the Ashkali Party for Integration, the Coalition for Gora and the Kosovo New Romani Party won one seat each.

10. On 10 June, the Democratic League of Kosovo, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo and the Initiative for Kosovo signed a coalition declaration in which the leader of the Alliance, Ramush Haradinaj, was proposed as the joint candidate for Prime Minister. The leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo and outgoing Prime Minister, Hashim Thaçi, questioned the constitutionality of such a post-election coalition, prompting a review by the Constitutional Court at the formal request of the President of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, on 19 June. On 1 July, the Court ruled that the President should in the first instance propose a candidate for Prime Minister nominated by the party or pre-election coalition that had won the greatest number of seats. The Court further ruled, however, that, should the proposed candidate not receive the required 61 votes of the 120 Assembly members, the President could appoint, after consultations, a candidate from the same party or pre-election coalition or from another party or coalition.

11. On 2 May, the Kosovo authorities and the European Commission finalized the draft text of a stabilization and association agreement, setting forth the framework for political and economic association. The draft text has been forwarded to European Union member States for review. The Kosovo authorities and the European Commission also continued to advance their discussions on a visa liberalization regime.

12. On 23 April, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted a law on the ratification of the international agreement between Kosovo and the European Union on EULEX, extending that mission's mandate until 14 June 2016, and on the establishment of a specialist court to try cases arising from the findings of the European Union Special Investigative Task Force. The Assembly also passed a law on amending and supplementing the laws related to the mandate of EULEX. The adoption of the additional legislation needed to support the functioning of the specialist court was postponed until after the establishment of the new Assembly. On 12 June, the Council of the European Union endorsed a two-year extension of the mandate of EULEX in Kosovo. EULEX will continue to perform its mandate, retaining its capacity of international police officers, judges and prosecutors and focusing on strategic leadership-level capacity-building and on the implementation of the European Union-led dialogue on agreements, in particular in northern Kosovo. It will continue to operate under the overall authority of the United Nations and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

13. Early in June, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, paid an official visit to the UNMIK mission area to assess progress made and challenges facing the international entities and authorities present in Kosovo. He met with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors,

as well as representatives of the international community in Pristina, Mitrovica and Belgrade.

III. Northern Kosovo

14. Following the Kosovo municipal elections held in November 2013, the four Serb majority municipalities in the north and the Ministry of Local Government Administration of Kosovo engaged in protracted discussions over the content of the new municipal statutes. On 15 May, the four municipalities held sessions during which all disputed provisions were resolved and, on 16 May, the Ministry certified the adopted statutes.

15. The new municipal authorities in the north and Pristina also conducted discussions on a range of administrative and budgetary matters. Some key matters are also linked to the ongoing discussions, held in the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue, on the formation of the association or community of Serb majority municipalities foreseen in the 19 April 2013 Agreement.

16. In June, several incidents occurred in the area of the main Mitrovica bridge, leading to a rise in tensions on both sides of the river. In the early hours of 18 June, a long-standing roadblock at the north end of the bridge was removed; several hours later, however, in the presence of the mayors of the four northern municipalities and the Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of Serbia, the roadblock was replaced with concrete planters and soil, which continued to block the main road. On 22 June, a public protest against these actions by Kosovo Albanians in South Mitrovica led to violent clashes with Kosovo police, resulting in injuries to 13 police officers and 12 civilians and damage to Kosovo police, EULEX and UNMIK vehicles. Timely and effective responses by the Kosovo police, EULEX and KFOR helped prevent the further escalation of tensions. The mayor of North Mitrovica subsequently announced plans for a pedestrian zone around the northern end of the bridge, with a main plaza to be named "Tsar Lazar Square".

17. On 10 July, a concrete block with a plaque reading "Adem Jashari Square" was installed, bearing a flag pole and an Albanian flag, at a road junction in the ethnically mixed area of Bosniak Mahala in North Mitrovica. On 11 July, a similar concrete installation carrying the inscription "Kosovo Liberation Army Square" was placed in another multi-ethnic area on the northern side of the Ibër/Ibar river. In the light of the increasing tensions, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, convened a meeting with Belgrade and Pristina representatives in Brussels on 11 July. Both sides agreed to establish a working group, which would meet on 22 July, to resolve the matter. In addition, meetings between the mayors of North and South Mitrovica were convened under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

IV. Security

18. On 25 April, a EULEX convoy on a routine rotation heading to Gate 31 was fired upon by unknown perpetrators, causing damage to two EULEX vehicles. The attack was condemned by the leadership in Pristina and Belgrade, my Special

Representative and the heads of other international missions. As at the end of the reporting period, no arrests had yet been made in connection with the incident.

19. During the campaign period and the election, no significant security incidents occurred. On 12 June, Kosovo and Albanian authorities jointly conducted a major anti-narcotics law enforcement operation, disrupting a well-developed trafficking network and seizing a substantial quantity of illicit narcotics. On 8 July, some 500 people protested in the main square in Pristina against the conviction of several ethnic Albanians in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Protesters marched towards the Embassy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and burned a Macedonian flag. Subsequently, on 11 and 13 July, several hundred Kosovo Albanians joined protests at the Hani I Elezit/Deneral Janković border crossing point and in the town of Ferizaj/Uroševac in support of the ongoing demonstrations in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the protests resulted in the temporary closing of the main border crossing point.

V. Rule of law

20. On 29 July, as the present report was being finalized, the Chief Prosecutor of the European Union Special Investigative Task Force, Clint Williamson, issued a statement summarizing the Task Force's findings to date concerning its investigation into allegations made in the 2010 report by Council of Europe Rapporteur Dick Marty. The entire statement appears in annex II to the present report. The Chief Prosecutor said that the investigation was "extremely challenging" because of the numbers of people and documents that required attention, the lack of physical evidence and witnesses and the fact that the events had happened some 15 years before. Additionally, a "climate of intimidation" against current and potential witnesses had made the work of the Task Force difficult. Yet, as a result of the investigation, the Chief Prosecutor believed that the Task Force would be in a position to file an indictment against certain former senior officials of the Kosovo Liberation Army responsible for an organized campaign of persecution that targeted minorities and included the commission of unlawful killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, illegal detentions, sexual violence, forced displacements and the desecration and destruction of churches and other religious sites, "effectively resulting in the ethnic cleansing of large portions of the Serb and Roma populations from areas in Kosovo south of the Ibar river, with the exception of a few scattered minority enclaves". The evidence indicates that those crimes had been committed in an organized fashion and had been sanctioned at the "top levels" of the leadership of the Kosovo Liberation Army, and that their "widespread or systematic nature justifies prosecution for crimes against humanity". The Task Force also found evidence of a sustained campaign of violence and intimidation directed by individuals within the Kosovo Liberation Army against Kosovo Albanian political opponents in order, inter alia, to obtain political power and personal wealth for themselves.

21. As regards the alleged killing of people with the aim of harvesting their organs, evidence was found that this practice did occur on a "very limited scale and that a small number of individuals were killed for the purpose of extracting and trafficking their organs". The Chief Prosecutor explained that the evidence secured to date was not, however, sufficient to include charges for such offences in an

indictment. Nonetheless, he also said that the Task Force would continue to actively pursue this aspect of the investigation in an effort to obtain relevant evidence.

22. The Chief Prosecutor also noted that the Special Investigative Task Force would file specific indictments only once a specialist court had been fully established, and that the specifics of the findings and supporting evidence would remain under seal until that time. He stressed that additional investigative work would continue in the meantime, but strongly urged the Government and Assembly of Kosovo and the European Union to move quickly so that such a court would be in place early in 2015.

23. During the reporting period, UNMIK continued to monitor activities and exercise some responsibilities in the area of the rule of law, in cooperation with Kosovo institutions and the Serbian authorities. UNMIK continued to facilitate requests for mutual legal assistance from countries that do not recognize Kosovo. UNMIK also continued to provide document certification services to Kosovo residents and at the request of non-recognizing States, primarily for the certification of civil status, education and pension documents. A total of 777 such documents were processed from 16 April to 15 July.

24. UNMIK continued to facilitate communications between the Kosovo authorities and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and its member States. During the reporting period, UNMIK issued nine INTERPOL Red Notices. On 16 May, UNMIK facilitated the extradition of a suspect from Kosovo to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

25. Following the adoption on 23 April of the law on amending and supplementing the laws related to the mandate of EULEX, the Kosovo Judicial Council and EULEX signed an agreement on relevant aspects of the activity and cooperation of EULEX judges with the Kosovo judges working in the local courts. The agreement contains clarifications in respect of the number and role of EULEX judges who may hear ongoing and upcoming cases and the procedure by which EULEX may request the Kosovo Judicial Council to refer cases to international judges.

26. On 23 May, the Basic Court of Mitrovica commenced proceedings against the so-called "Drenica Group", composed of seven former Kosovo Liberation Army members charged with multiple counts of war crimes against the civilian population. On 20 May, three of the seven defendants escaped custody while receiving medical treatment at the University of Pristina clinical centre. On 23 May, however, they surrendered to the Kosovo police and were subsequently transferred to a prison in Dubrava.

27. On 15 May, the Kosovo police captured a Kosovo Serb who had escaped from police custody on 12 March in Zubin Potok. The man was detained on remand on suspicion of committing a number of serious criminal offences, including attacking EULEX personnel and property and endangering United Nations and associated personnel.

28. Following a meeting of the Working Group on Missing Persons on 7 April, exhumations resumed at the site of a mass grave in Rudnica, Raska municipality, in southern Serbia on 23 April. The exhumations were completed on 21 June, resulting in the recovery of 45 sets of human remains and 88 body parts. DNA samples were sent for analysis to a laboratory operated by the International Commission on Missing Persons. The Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of Serbia

announced that the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor had issued a court order for investigations and exhumations to be carried out at two other locations in Rudnica. Excavations at one of the sites were completed without human remains having been discovered.

29. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations visited the site during his official visit to the mission area early in June. The members of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances also visited Rudnica, following a visit to Kosovo from 24 to 26 June, during which they met with Kosovo authorities, relatives of disappeared persons, representatives of civil society organizations and other stakeholders. The visit was part of a tour of the region that included stops in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. The Working Group members underscored the urgent need for a renewed commitment at the highest political level and the development of a new national and regional strategy to address the question of enforced disappearances and missing persons in the Western Balkans.

VI. Returns and communities

30. Between April and June, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees registered the voluntary return to Kosovo of 49 displaced persons, 23 of whom were Kosovo Serbs, 15 Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptians, 9 Kosovo Bosniaks and 2 Kosovo Goranis.

31. UNMIK has completed its 2013-2014 confidence-building measures programme, aimed at promoting reconciliation among different communities in Kosovo. The programme was implemented in 18 municipalities throughout Kosovo, including in the north, to support community-based initiatives by civil society and other local actors in areas such as youth, sports and education. In particular, projects were aimed at promoting better access by non-majority communities to formal education and at building professional capacities. UNMIK provided equipment and other assistance to an ethnically mixed community youth centre in North Mitrovica. The confidence-building programme was also aimed at promoting projects in multilingualism and access to services and economic opportunities.

32. In May, the Office of Community Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo launched a six-month internship programme in Kosovo government institutions for 100 members of non-majority communities. The Kosovo police also launched a new recruitment campaign in May, which attracted considerable interest among Kosovo non-majority communities, while also highlighting a number of outstanding administrative issues, such as certification of diplomas of applicants from these communities. During the reporting period, the Kosovo authorities also began to explore means to allow holders of diplomas issued by a Belgrade-supported university in Mitrovica to apply for public sector work in Kosovo.

VII. Cultural and religious heritage

33. Delays in the appointment of a new European Union facilitator and in the nomination of new Kosovo representatives owing to the Kosovo Assembly elections resulted in less regular meetings of the Implementation and Monitoring Council,

which brings together the Kosovo authorities, Serbian Orthodox Church and other religious representatives, the Office of the European Union and OSCE to discuss the protection of religious and cultural heritage in Kosovo.

34. During the reporting period, 15 incidents targeting religious and cultural heritage sites were recorded. Of those sites, 12 Serbian were Orthodox, one was Islamic and two were Roman Catholic. The incidents included an offensive graffiti painted on a gate of the Visoki Dečani monastery in Deçan/Dečani municipality on 25 April. Security measures at the monastery were further enhanced, including through the installation of a closed circuit video system. On 25 June, the Kosovo police opened a case of "usurpation of property" in relation to illegal construction in the special protective zone of the Visoki Dečani monastery. Enforcement of a demolition order was still pending at the end of the reporting period, and remained in question.

VIII. Human rights

35. On 12 June, the Special Rapporteur on the human Rights of internally displaced persons, Chaloka Beyani, submitted a report on his follow-up mission to Serbia, including Kosovo, which he undertook from 9 to 12 October 2013, to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-sixth session, held in Geneva (A/HRC/26/33/Add.2). While commending the notable efforts made by the Government of Serbia and the Kosovo authorities to improve the situation of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur called upon the Kosovo authorities to focus efforts on ensuring effective law enforcement, greater political commitment and more effective institutional coordination in order to achieve durable solutions for those persons. The Special Rapporteur also stressed the urgent need for property issues to be resolved.

36. A week devoted to tolerance and reconciliation in Kosovo (23-30 May) started with a three-day annual interfaith conference, the second of its kind. The event brought together representatives of different faith communities, including the Serbian Orthodox Church, under the theme "Religion and politics: enhancing interfaith dialogue as a means of democratic development". The conference, organized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, provided a constructive platform for promoting enhanced dialogue and reconciliation.

37. The President of Kosovo participated in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which was held in London from 10 to 13 June. Addressing the Summit, the President highlighted the recently adopted amendments to the law on the status and the rights of martyrs, invalids, veterans and members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, civilian victims of war and their families, in which survivors of sexual violence were included as a separate category of victims of war and were provided with access to reparations. In the first such verdict in Kosovo since 2002, on 24 June the Court of Appeals overturned a judgement of acquittal by the Basic Court of Mitrovica, finding two defendants guilty of war crimes for a rape committed in April 1999. They were sentenced to prison for terms of 12 and 10 years.

38. On 23 June, OSCE published the outcomes of a comprehensive assessment of the implementation, at the municipal level in Kosovo, of the law on the use of languages, which had been adopted in 2007. According to the assessment, the law

remains only partially implemented and implementation is hindered by inadequate resources and misinterpretations of its provisions. As part of its confidence-building measures programme, UNMIK provided support to the European Centre for Minority Issues in the preparation of a publication entitled "Strengthening the protection of language rights in Kosovo: a guidebook on the implementation of the law on the use of languages".

IX. Observations

39. I commend the institutions, political entities and population of Kosovo for the peaceful and orderly conduct, on 8 June, of elections for the Assembly of Kosovo and for the participation of Kosovo Serb political entities and voters in northern Kosovo. The ensuing post-electoral negotiations have represented another important test of the political maturity of the Kosovo institutions and their efficient conclusion is essential so that a new leadership in Pristina can proceed expeditiously to address key challenges, including the reform of the electoral system and the political dialogue with Belgrade.

40. I welcome the formation, on 29 April, of the new government of Serbia, headed by Prime Minister Aleksandar Vučić. I note with appreciation the early reaffirmation by the new government of its commitment to the continuation of the European Union-facilitated high-level dialogue with Pristina and full implementation of the agreements reached in 2013.

41. I strongly condemn the acts of violence committed during the demonstration on 22 June in South Mitrovica. At the same time, I commend the professionalism shown by the Kosovo police, EULEX and KFOR in responding to the violence. It remains essential that unilateral actions and inflammatory rhetoric be avoided, in order to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to the successful continuation of the dialogue. This incident is a stark reminder that the path to reconciliation between communities is long and arduous. It also highlights the need for all sides to translate on the ground the progress reached by leaders in Brussels.

42. Taking note that no high-level meetings were held during the reporting period owing to pre- and post-electoral processes in Belgrade and Pristina, I encourage both sides to resume such meetings at the earliest opportunity. Full and faithful implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement, in accordance with the implementation plan of 22 May 2013, should provide the context for addressing other outstanding issues through continued high-level engagement by Belgrade and Pristina in the European Union-facilitated dialogue.

43. I also welcome the formation of the new municipal assemblies and the adoption of municipal statutes by the Serb-majority municipalities in northern Kosovo. I commend the constructive stances taken by all sides in this regard. Together with the successful conduct of municipal and legislative elections throughout Kosovo, these positive developments represent critical steps towards the establishment of an association/community of Serb majority municipalities in Kosovo in the future, as envisaged in the 19 April 2013 Agreement. I urge all parties concerned to continue to work towards this objective. At the same time, I welcome the decisions extending the activities of EULEX, as well as the establishment of a specialist court, which would help Kosovo to continue strengthening its rule of law and justice institutions.

44. In this respect, I welcome the statement of findings issued on 29 July by the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Investigative Task Force. I wish to commend the intensive work undertaken by the Task Force, which is essential not only for sustaining fundamental principles of international justice but also for combating impunity and ensuring accountability, all of which are required to promote reconciliation and healing among the communities in Kosovo. I wish to thank the leadership of the European Union for fully committing the political and financial resources to complete this process, and I strongly urge the Kosovo authorities, as well as the supporting European Union structures, to ensure that a specialist court is in place by early 2015.

45. I commend the forensic experts from Serbia, EULEX and Kosovo for the important work completed so far at an exhumation site in Rudnica. I urge the parties to continue this expeditious work and to renew efforts to ensure further progress on the issue of missing persons. I once again encourage those who might possess any relevant information concerning the fate of missing persons to come forward and help close this painful chapter.

46. The strong commitments by Belgrade and Pristina to make progress along the path to European integration, coupled with continued active engagement by the European Union, have proved to be critical driving forces towards the critical objective of normalizing relations between Belgrade and Pristina. In this respect, I welcome the extensive efforts made by Kosovo and the European Commission, which have resulted in the finalization of the text of a stabilization and association agreement, and I look forward to its early review by European Union member States.

47. In conclusion, I would like to thank my Special Representative, Farid Zarif, for his forward-looking and dynamic leadership, and all the staff of UNMIK for their dedication and efforts to contribute to continued progress in Kosovo. I also extend my gratitude to our long-standing partners on the ground, including the European Union, EULEX, KFOR and OSCE, and to all the members of the United Nations family in Kosovo for their contributions to peace, stability and development.

Annex I

Report of the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Secretary-General on the activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo covering the period from 16 April to 15 July 2014

1. Summary

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) continued to undertake monitoring, mentoring and advising activities in the area of the rule of law and to implement its executive functions according to its mandate. The prosecution of war crimes resulted in the first conviction of rape as a war crime since 2002. Three EULEX judges also started the trial in the "Drenica Group" case against a number of high-profile defendants. The Special Investigative Task Force continued to investigate allegations contained in the report of Council of Europe Special Rapporteur Dick Marty. As regards strengthening activities, special emphasis was given, inter alia, to problems relating to high-risk and high-profile prisoners and to a number of important events, including the general elections of 8 June and the Vidovdan celebrations. EULEX also continued to facilitate the implementation of the agreements reached within the European Union-facilitated dialogue on the normalization of relations between Pristina and Belgrade in the rule of law sector.

While progress has been noted in northern Kosovo, the security situation, particularly in Zubin Potok, is cause for growing concern. An indication of this is the incident that took place at the end of April, when a EULEX convoy on its way to the crossing point came under gunfire. The elimination of a long-standing roadblock at the main bridge in Mitrovica and the subsequent works on the so-called "peace park" that replaced the roadblock led to violent protests at the end of June.

Finally, on 12 June 2014 the Council of the European Union extended the mandate of EULEX for a period of two years.

2. EULEX activities, April to July 2014

War crimes

The reporting period was marked by developments in several war crimes cases involving EULEX judges and prosecutors. On 22 May, a panel of three EULEX judges at the Mitrovica Basic Court started the trial against the "Drenica Group". The case relates to the alleged torture and mistreatment of hostages at the Kosovo Liberation Army headquarters in Likovc/Likovac (Skënderaj/Srbica municipality) in 1998 and 1999.

On 29 May, a panel of EULEX judges at Mitrovica Basic Court acquitted all four defendants in the "Drenica Group 2" case, concerning the abduction, torture and rape of two Kosovo Albanian women in Mitrovica South in late 1998 and early 1999. While the court established beyond reasonable doubt that one of the defendants had kidnapped one of the victims, the five-year statute of limitations for that offence had already passed.

On 24 June, the first conviction for rape as a war crime since 2002 was handed down in Kosovo when the Court of Appeals, in a panel of one local and two EULEX judges, overturned an acquittal from April 2013 and sentenced two defendants to 12 and 10 years of imprisonment respectively for war crimes against the civilian population committed in April 1999.

Organized crime and corruption

On 21 May, a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment at Pristina Basic Court against two suspects for allegedly having accepted an offer of €200,000 from a syndicate of five individuals in return for ensuring that the Privatization Agency of Kosovo had selected their bid in a land privatization process in 2009.

On 22 May, a EULEX judge at Prizren Basic Court sentenced a defendant to four and a half years of imprisonment and a fine of €600 on the basis of a plea agreement. The defendant was found guilty of having trafficked narcotics to the European Union in 2009 as a member of an organized crime group.

On 10 June, a panel of one local and two EULEX judges at Pristina Basic Court started the trial in a high-profile case involving charges of organized crime, abuse of official position or authority and accepting and giving bribes at the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication ("MTPT 1"). During the first session of the trial, a EULEX judge decided to merge the case with a related case ("MTPT 2"), for which an indictment had been confirmed on the same day.

On 11 June, a panel of three EULEX judges at Mitrovica Basic Court found the Mayor of Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality guilty of having unlawfully occupied and built on land and sentenced him to pay a fine of €10,000.

On 20 June, a EULEX prosecutor and a local prosecutor from the Ferizaj/Uroševac Basic Prosecution Office filed an indictment against three defendants suspected of involvement in organized crime, money-laundering and facilitation of prostitution. The defendants are alleged to have recruited foreign nationals to provide sexual services at a motel in the Ferizaj/Uroševac region between 2005 and 2013.

On 5 July, a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment at Pristina Basic Court against an alleged narcotics kingpin suspected of numerous offences, including involvement in organized crime, aggravated murder and trafficking in narcotics.

Other cases

On 23 April, a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment against two defendants suspected of having released the identities of witnesses in the "Drenica Group" case. One of the defendants showed the testimonies of protected witnesses on his television show on a public broadcasting network in Kosovo.

On 24 April, a EULEX prosecutor from the Kosovo Special Prosecution Office filed an indictment at Pristina Basic Court against a defendant in the high-profile case related to the murder of Kosovo police officer Triumf Riza in 2007. Three other individuals had already been convicted for that murder.

On 22 May, EULEX and the Kosovo police conducted search and arrest operations in the regions of Pristina and Podujevë/Podujevo as part of an ongoing investigation into the murder of two police officers, one of the Kosovo police and one of UNMIK, in 2004. Two individuals were arrested.

On 2 June, a panel of EULEX judges at Mitrovica Basic Court sentenced one defendant to three years and another defendant to two and a half years of imprisonment for causing general danger in a shooting incident in Mitrovica South in 2012, in which one person was killed and another was injured.

On 26 June, a EULEX prosecutor at Pristina Basic Prosecution Office filed an indictment against a defendant for allegedly having thrown stones at a convoy transporting a Serbian delegation on an official visit to Kosovo in April 2012.

Special Investigative Task Force

The investigation of the Special Investigative Task Force into the allegations made in the January 2011 report authored by the Council of Europe Special Rapporteur Dick Marty, entitled "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo" continues apace. The claims of abduction, detention, mistreatment and killings, as well as of organ harvesting and trafficking in Kosovo, contained in the report are being investigated by the Task Force.

The Task Force is still actively engaging with victim advocacy groups, injured parties and individuals in order to collect information useful for the investigation. Investigative and operational activities are under way and cooperation with judicial and law enforcement authorities in the region and beyond remains productive. During the reporting period, Chief Prosecutor Clint Williamson and members of his office travelled to Europe and North America to hold talks with governmental agencies on important issues related to the Task Force's work.

Mr. Williamson continued his engagement with European Union institutions and member States throughout the reporting period in order to ensure ongoing support for the Task Force's investigation. The Task Force also continued to contribute to efforts led by the European Union for the establishment of a viable, independent and impartial judicial mechanism to receive any indictment arising from the Task Force's investigation. Lastly, Mr. Williamson made public the Task Force's investigative findings on 29 July (a copy of his statement is attached).

Department of Forensic Medicine

On 23 April, EULEX forensic experts at the Department of Forensic Medicine started an excavation in Raška, Serbia, under the authority of a Serbian investigative judge. The EULEX Head of Mission visited the site in June. On 4 July, the excavation was suspended following the completion of exhumations at two of the three sites. To date, 45 sets of human remains and 88 body parts have been recovered.

Property rights

In the area of civil justice, commissioners of the Kosovo Property Claims Commission continued their work. During the reporting period, 874 cases (mainly involving inter-ethnic property claims) were adjudicated. Of the 42,701 claims lodged with the Kosovo Property Agency, in only 624 is a decision still pending.

From 16 April to 15 July, the Kosovo Property Agency Appeals Panel received 49 new appeals and adjudicated 49 appeals.

During the reporting period, the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court rendered 119 decisions in trial panel cases. The Special Chamber also closed 481 cases on workers' lists and finalized 62 cases at the appellate panel level.

Strengthening the rule of law

Following EULEX advice, during May both the Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) and the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC) revised a series of regulations in the areas of recruitment and appointment, evaluation and disciplinary liability of judges and prosecutors. These amendments will enable both councils to align their regulations with the European Union standards in the areas of organizational capacity and professional capability. EULEX also advised KPC on how to assess candidates' written and oral performance and conduct interviews.

In addition, EULEX conducted a thematic assessment of the use of official languages in judicial proceedings and court administration and presented its findings to KJC and KPC. EULEX recommended that there be an increase in oral and written translation resources in the court system and that the signage in court buildings be aligned with the language requirements in the law on the use of languages. EULEX has started cooperating with KJC and KPC on translating the recommendations into actions.

EULEX held extensive discussions with the Ministry of Justice and the Kosovo Correctional Service (KCS) on the urgent need to appoint an experienced individual to the post of director of the high-security prison in Podujevë/Podujevo in order to accelerate the opening of that prison. Acting upon the advice of EULEX, KCS redeployed the director of the Dubrava correctional centre as acting director of the high-security prison, which was opened on 31 May and which is expected to gradually improve overcrowding in other prisons and to alleviate problems in relation to high-risk and high-profile prisoners.

The hospitalization of high-profile prisoners continues to be a concern as throughout the reporting period there were a record number of prisoners hospitalized at the University of Pristina clinical centre. An example of this relates to the start of the "Drenica Group" war crimes trial, scheduled for 22 May. In advance of the trial, and taking into account the multiple abuses of transfer to medical facilities on behalf of the defendants, the presiding judge issued an order to have the defendants relocated to the Mitrovica detention centre for as long as the trial was in session, on the grounds that not doing so could result in delays (for transport and security reasons). The remainder of the time, the defendants were to be detained at the Dubrava correctional centre, as before.

On 20 May, the day the detainees were instructed to be transferred for the first time, three of the seven defendants absconded from custody at the University of Pristina clinical centre. The escape, which was allegedly facilitated by KCS, is the subject of a criminal investigation. A small protest accompanied the escape. Protesters barricaded the rooms the escapees had previously occupied and prevented the Kosovo police from establishing the exact whereabouts of the three individuals.

EULEX worked with the Kosovo police to ensure the court appearance of the remaining four defendants and, in an operation, to locate and transfer the three

detainees who were absconding from justice. Consequently, an arrest warrant for them was issued, which also specified that the three defendants would be detained at the Dubrava correctional centre, superseding the 19 May court order to place them in the Mitrovica detention centre. On 22 May, the three handed themselves over to the police at the University of Pristina clinical centre. They were immediately transferred to the Dubrava correctional centre, in accordance with the terms of the arrest warrant. The actions of the Kosovo police in this context were assessed as adequate.

The KCS Internal Investigation Commission tasked with looking into the incident at the University of Pristina clinical centre presented a report that dealt only with KCS officers on guard duty, not with KCS senior management. EULEX assessed the report to be of poor quality and lacking crucial information needed to decide on disciplinary measures, and thus provided recommendations on how to improve the report. Upon the proposal made by the Commission, the KCS director imposed a transfer for six months to another correctional institution for one KCS officer and a written warning for two other officers.

EULEX provided support to the Kosovo police at both the strategic and operational levels for a number of high-profile events, including the friendly football match against Turkey, a parade marking the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the general elections. EULEX monitored the police's plans for the elections and considered them to be adequate and police resources to be sufficient. During the operation, no major incidents were reported. Monitoring, mentoring and advising teams also provided key support to the police in preparation of the Vidovdan celebrations on 28 June. EULEX assessed that the police demonstrated a community-focused policing style aimed at creating a safe environment during the celebration. The police were well prepared and, according to the EULEX assessment, its reactions were prompt, professional and proportionate.

In June, EULEX also provided advice to the integrated border management executive board's working group on the development plan for the Centre for Border Management in Kosovo and identified priority activities and action plans in areas such as infrastructure, inter-agency cooperation, risk analysis and visibility, in accordance with the requirements of the European Union visa liberalization road map.

Finally, EULEX monitored the asylum registration procedures for irregular migrants claiming to be of Syrian origin and detained by the police in northern Kosovo. In addition, EULEX provided advice to the Kosovo police and the Kosovo border police on improving the flow of information between them in order to increase the chances of proper identification and due treatment of asylum seekers, including in cases of readmission to third countries.

The north

In northern Kosovo, EULEX continued its monitoring, mentoring and advising activities while exercising its executive functions in a number of judicial proceedings. On 22 April, EULEX and the Kosovo police's Regional Command North cooperated in ensuring the service of 20 summonses to persons of interest in northern Kosovo and subsequent interviews. The summonses refer to a number of investigations into, inter alia, the escape of a suspect from custody at the police station in Zubin Potok and into the killing of police officer Enver Zymberi during an attack on a police convoy on 25 July 2011.

On 25 April, EULEX arrested the driver of the Mayor of Zubin Potok, who had been summoned in relation to the escape of a person from custody at the police station in Zubin Potok. On 27 April, a EULEX judge rejected an application for detention on remand and ordered the release of the driver from police custody. The person who had escaped custody was arrested by the police on 15 May on charges of committing a number of serious criminal offences, including endangering United Nations and associated personnel, obstructing official persons in performing official duties, participating in a crowd committing a criminal offence, attacking EULEX personnel and property and participating in a violent escape.

Also on 25 April, a convoy of two armoured EULEX vehicles came under gunfire in the village of Banja/Banjë in the municipality of Zubin Potok, one kilometre from the crossing point of Bërnjak/Tabalije. The unit was at the forefront of the convoy for the rotation of EULEX staff working at the crossing point. The incident, which resulted in damage to EULEX vehicles and could easily have led to casualties, was condemned in the strongest terms by political leaders in Pristina, Belgrade and northern Kosovo. EULEX also received support for its mandate and actions from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Kosovo. Locally, the Mayor of Zubin Potok characterized the incident as a terrorist attack.

Following EULEX security assessments, there was no physical monitoring, mentoring and advising presence in Zubin Potok. However, monitoring, mentoring and advising activities continue to be carried out by telephone and through regular meetings outside the municipality.

On 2 May, 43 members (36 Kosovo Serbs and 7 Kosovo Albanians) of the Kosovo police's quick-response team in the north concluded a three-week training course at the Kosovo Police Academy and became fully operational on 9 May. Already during the first weeks of duty, the team contributed significantly to an increase in the operational effectiveness of the Kosovo police in the north. EULEX monitored all stages of the training course as well as the first five operations that were undertaken by the team.

Furthermore, EULEX supported Kosovo police in the north by facilitating communication on mounting an operation that targeted organized car theft gangs operating in Kosovo and Serbia. The operation resulted in five arrests and the seizure of assets.

On the evening of 17 June and in the early morning of 18 June, parties unknown removed the rubble and soil barricade at the main bridge in Mitrovica that had been erected in July 2011 in protest against the presence of Kosovo special police units in northern Kosovo on 25 July 2011. On the afternoon of 19 June, concrete plant pots began to be moved onto the bridge. Three rows of such pots were placed across the bridge. During the afternoon, several lorry loads of soil were also dumped on the bridge and spread out between the three rows of plant pots.

On 22 June, approximately 1,000 Kosovo Albanians protested at the Mitrovica South municipal assembly building against the placement of the new barricade. As the protest moved towards the bridge, a number of protestors threw stones and other items towards the Kosovo police, which responded by using tear gas. EULEX also fired tear gas and rubber bullets. The demonstration resulted in 13 police officers

sustaining slight injuries while 12 civilians were injured but were released after receiving medical treatment. In addition, several vehicles (of the police, EULEX and the United Nations) were set on fire or vandalized. Ten Kosovo Albanian protesters were arrested during the incident and were later detained on the Prosecutor's order.

Dialogue implementation

Within the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade, the double taxation for travellers with goods transiting Serbia on their way to Kosovo ceased on 19 April. Commercial vehicles are now charged with a guarantee payment when entering Serbia for transit, which is to be reimbursed when entering Kosovo. EULEX has been monitoring the implementation of this agreement.

Pursuant to the agreement on the integration of members of Serbian security structures in the equivalent Kosovo structures, 30 Kosovo Serb firefighters from northern Mitrovica successfully signed an employment contract with the Mitrovica North administration office on 8 May.

In relation to the implementation of the customs agreement, the issuance of provisional licences for all goods entering through the Kosovo crossing points of Rudnica/Jainjë and Bërnjak/Tabalije resumed on 21 May. Since then, 109 companies have registered at the two crossing points.

Other key issues

The Joint Rule of Law Coordination Board, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Justice, the European Union Special Representative and Head of the European Union Office in Kosovo and the EULEX Head of Mission met on 28 May. The Board confirmed its continuing commitment to the joint compact signed on 12 November 2012. The meeting served as a reminder of the need to continue efforts to ensure the full implementation of the agreed workplans. The Board continued discussions on Kosovo's particular challenges concerning political interference in the rule of law.

On 11 June, the Board co-chairs jointly presented the "Compact progress report 2014" to the public. The report takes stock of recent developments, including the challenges remaining in the area of the rule of law.

3. EULEX mandate

On the basis of a strategic review of EULEX conducted by the European External Action Service, on 13 June the Council of the European Union extended the mandate of EULEX until 14 June 2016. EULEX will continue to operate under the overall authority of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Prior to this, on 23 April, the Assembly of Kosovo voted in favour of Kosovo's continued commitment to cooperating with EULEX, as expressed in a letter of invitation from the President of Kosovo to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Its ratification ensures the continuing legality of EULEX activities under domestic legislation until June 2016. Assembly members also said they were committed to the relocation of judicial proceedings for the follow-up to the investigations of the Special Investigative Task Force.

Annex II

Statement dated 29 July 2014 of the Chief Prosecutor of the Special Investigative Task Force

Background

In September 2011, the Special Investigative Task Force was set up by the European Union to conduct a full-scale criminal investigation into the allegations contained in the report of Council of Europe Rapporteur Dick Marty. I was appointed, as Chief Prosecutor, to lead the Task Force, and took up my post the following month, in October 2011.

Over the past two and a half years, the Task Force has conducted an intense, detailed investigation into the allegations in the Marty report. This investigation has involved interviewing hundreds of witnesses in countries throughout Europe and elsewhere. It has involved the review of thousands of pages of documents compiled by numerous organizations and individuals engaged in Kosovo during and after the period of our investigative focus.

This has been an extremely challenging exercise for the Task Force. We have been looking at events that occurred some 15 years ago and for which little or no physical evidence exists. Many witnesses who we believe had information that would have been relevant to the investigation have since died or become so infirm that they are not in a position to provide testimony. Likewise, a number of other potential witnesses identified by the Task Force have not been interviewed because their current whereabouts could not be ascertained. Finally, we have faced challenges owing to a climate of intimidation that seeks to undermine any investigation of individuals associated with the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

General findings

Despite these difficulties, I am convinced that the Task Force has conducted the most comprehensive investigation ever done of crimes perpetrated in the period after the war ended in Kosovo in June 1999. As a result of this investigation, we believe that the Task Force will be in a position to file an indictment against certain senior officials of the former KLA. These individuals bear responsibility for a campaign of persecution that was directed at the ethnic Serb, Roma and other minority populations of Kosovo and towards fellow Kosovo Albanians who they labelled either as collaborators with the Serbs or, more commonly, as having simply been political opponents of the KLA leadership.

Information compiled by the Task Force indicates that certain KLA elements intentionally targeted the minority populations with acts of persecution that included unlawful killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, illegal detentions in camps in Kosovo and Albania, sexual violence, other forms of inhumane treatment, the forced displacement of individuals from their homes and communities, and the desecration and destruction of churches and other religious sites. This effectively resulted in the ethnic cleansing of large portions of the Serb and Roma populations from those areas in Kosovo south of the Ibar river, with the exception of a few

scattered minority enclaves. Additionally, we have found that certain KLA elements engaged in a sustained campaign of violence and intimidation in 1998 and 1999 directed at Kosovo Albanian political opponents, which also included acts of extrajudicial killings, illegal detentions and inhumane treatment.

We believe that the evidence is compelling that these crimes were not the acts of rogue individuals acting on their own accord, but rather that they were conducted in an organized fashion and were sanctioned by certain individuals in the top levels of the KLA leadership. The widespread or systematic nature of these crimes in the period after the war ended in June 1999 justifies a prosecution for crimes against humanity. Accordingly, we anticipate that such charges can be filed in this matter against several senior officials of the former KLA, and that an indictment would also likely include charges for war crimes and certain violations of domestic Kosovo law, including murder.

Some other domestic offences — including torture — cannot be prosecuted because those crimes have prescribed owing to the expiration of the 15-year statute of limitations. With no court in place at this time, and thus with an inability to file an indictment, we were not in a position to interrupt the running of the prescriptive period. That said, I do not believe that this will have a detrimental effect on this case, particularly since many of these criminal acts can probably be charged in the context of international humanitarian law violations, for which there is no statute of limitations.

In regard to the crimes I described above, obviously our focus — as an investigative and prosecutorial body — was to seek and compile evidence of criminal wrongdoing. While it was not our primary responsibility, we have nevertheless also felt a strong obligation to do everything we could to learn about the fate of those people who disappeared in 1998 and 1999 and whose whereabouts are still unknown. Unfortunately, at this point, we have found little additional information that would lead us to the locations of bodies or that would otherwise shed light on the whereabouts of those who disappeared. The pursuit of this information will, needless to say, remain a very high priority for the Task Force, not only for investigative purposes but also because of the compelling humanitarian interest in providing long overdue answers to the families, of all ethnicities, whose loved ones disappeared during this period.

All in all, our investigative findings should come as no surprise to anyone, as they are consistent with what was reported as far back as 1999 by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in its report *Human Rights in Kosovo: As seen as Told* (Vol. II) and by Human Rights Watch in its report *Abuses against Serbs and Roma in the new Kosovo*. This is the first time, however, that the allegations in those reports, and now those in the Marty report as well, have been subjected to prosecutorial review in the context of a Kosovo-wide criminal investigation. While any case brought by the Task Force would obviously not replicate those reports in full, the underlying theme presented in those reports of a campaign of persecution led by certain senior individuals in the KLA leadership is consistent with our investigative findings at this point.

Organ harvesting and trafficking

While the Marty report addressed a broad set of allegations, discussing the disappearances, detentions and killings of members of ethnic minorities and of Kosovo Albanian political opponents, the part of the report that garnered the most attention — because of its sensational nature — related to the allegations of murders for the purpose of harvesting and trafficking human organs. As I said, our findings were largely consistent with those in the Marty report, and that also applies to the allegations on this issue. In order to prosecute such offences, however, a level of evidence is required that we have not yet secured. Like Dick Marty did during the course of his investigation, we have encountered significant challenges in obtaining such evidence. This is not to say that this evidence will not emerge, and we certainly continue to vigorously pursue it. So, by no means, have we dismissed the validity of these allegations. While I do not yet feel that there is a strong enough evidentiary basis to conclude that indictments can be brought as to this aspect of the case, I do feel a particular obligation to address this issue, specifically in the light of the attention that has been focused on it.

I can say, at this point, that there are compelling indications that this practice did occur on a very limited scale and that a small number of individuals were killed for the purpose of extracting and trafficking their organs. This conclusion is consistent with what was stated in the Marty report, namely that a "handful" of individuals were subjected to this crime. The use of the word "handful" by Senator Marty was intentional and it was meant literally. There is no indication at this point that this practice was more widespread than that and certainly no indication that a significant portion of the ethnic minorities who went missing or were killed were victims of this practice. Statements that have been made by some implying that hundreds of people were killed for the purpose of organ trafficking are totally unsupported by the information we have and that Dick Marty had. If even one person was subjected to such a horrific practice, and we believe a small number of people were, that is a terrible tragedy and the fact that it occurred on a limited scale does not diminish the savagery of the crime. But, it likewise serves no purpose to exaggerate the numbers and to create undue pain and anxiety for the families who do not know the fate of their loved ones, leading them to imagine this added dimension of horror.

Judicial process

In regard to those crimes for which the Task Force has prosecutable evidence, the filing of an indictment will not occur until the specialist court designated to hear these cases is established — hopefully early next year. Between now and then, additional evidence may be brought to the fore and that would obviously affect the form of the indictment that is filed. So, this is an unusual — in fact, an unprecedented — situation in international justice, where a special prosecutor's office has been set up with full investigative authorities and with a mandate to issue indictments, but where no viable court exists in which those indictments can be filed. The statement of findings that I am making today will only serve as a placeholder until a more authoritative indictment can be issued.

In terms of the process, there was recognition from the outset of the European Union taking on this matter that certain extraordinary measures were necessary to

conduct and ensure the integrity of an investigation of this nature. This led to the establishment of the Task Force as an autonomous investigative unit, situated outside Kosovo, in Brussels. The same considerations that were factored into the establishment of the Task Force as a stand-alone investigative and prosecutorial office have also been factored into the creation of a tribunal with certain safeguards that would provide the only means for a fair and secure trial in this matter.

In regard to the court that is envisaged, I want to address a specific concern that has come from some in Kosovo that this will be a special court just for KLA and that it will ignore crimes committed by others. The reality is that the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia had the jurisdiction to address crimes occurring during the period of armed conflict, in other words, until the war ended in mid-June 1999. Pursuant to its jurisdictional mandate, the Tribunal brought a number of prosecutions against senior Serbian officials for crimes against humanity and war crimes during this period, for acts directed at Kosovo Albanian victims. The Tribunal, however, was prevented from prosecuting crimes in the post-war period — the period which has been the primary focus of our investigation — because its jurisdiction did not allow for prosecutions outside armed conflict. In 2000, Tribunal Prosecutor Carla del Ponte actually requested revisions to the statute to allow the Tribunal to investigate and prosecute crimes during this period, but her request was not acted upon. As a result, crimes committed in Kosovo in the pre-war period and during the war itself have largely been dealt with by the Tribunal, the majority of these involved Serb perpetrators. What our investigation has done and what this court will do, is to fill the void left by the Tribunal's jurisdictional limitations. The reality is that the primary perpetrators during the post-war period were certain individuals affiliated with KLA, but this is not singling them out for harsher treatment than others; it is only subjecting them to the same sort of international justice processes that have already been followed in relation to Serb perpetrators.

A number of steps have been taken to establish this specialist court and, while I am disappointed that this is not in place already, I understand that this has been a complex process and has involved navigating through uncharted territory. Moving through the bureaucracy of the various European Union institutions, reaching consensus among the 28 member States, securing a commitment from a host State and addressing its concerns and, lastly, completing the legal and procedural steps in Kosovo necessary to create this court, has been an incredibly complicated, time-consuming process. While most of these steps have been completed, and the Kosovo Government and Assembly have formally committed to establishing a court with the necessary safeguards, the statute of the court and certain changes in Kosovo law must be enacted before the court can commence its work. These procedural steps can only take place when a new Assembly is constituted in Kosovo pursuant to the recent elections. It is only at the point that the court is set up and judges are in place that the Task Force can file an indictment in this matter. Until this occurs, the specifics of the Task Force's findings and the supporting evidence will remain under seal and further details on the investigation will not be made public. In the meantime, the Task Force will continue its investigative work to buttress its findings and to further strengthen the case. I strongly urge the Kosovo Government and Assembly and the European Union to move quickly to finalize this process and to have a court in place early next year.

Witness intimidation

As I indicated above, the Task Force has faced significant challenges in the conduct of this investigation, and we recognize that these challenges will continue to be a factor as work progresses. While I feel strongly that evidence will be sufficient to bring an indictment when the procedural vehicles are in place to allow for filing, I must acknowledge that, as with any criminal investigation, things can change and that it is impossible to offer absolute guarantees of specific results. In this regard, the issue that concerns me the most is one that I noted at the outset of my remarks and that is the climate of witness intimidation. As this investigation has progressed, there have been active efforts to undermine it by interfering with witnesses; these efforts are still ongoing. We have taken steps to counter the impact of witness intimidation and we will continue to do so. We will actively investigate these activities and will prosecute any individual found to have been involved. There is probably no greater threat to the rule of law in Kosovo and to its progress towards a European future than this pervasive practice. As long as a few powerful people continue to thwart investigations into their own criminality, the people of Kosovo as a whole pay the price, as this leaves a dark cloud over the country. Those who engage in violence or the threat of violence against witnesses or those in political positions or the media who attack witnesses for daring to speak out are not the ones defending Kosovo. They are the people betraying Kosovo's future.

Chief Prosecutor

I would hereby like to take this opportunity to announce that my service as Chief Prosecutor of the Task Force will conclude on 23 August. When I was asked to take this position in mid-2011, I agreed to serve for a maximum term of three years and to see this process through the primary investigative phase. As both of those benchmarks are now approaching, I think this is the appropriate time for me to depart so as to facilitate the continuity of my successor through the pretrial and trial phases of this case.

As I prepare to finish my work with the Task Force I want to acknowledge the tremendous work of the men and women who have been my colleagues and to express my appreciation to them. This group of incredible professionals — prosecutors, investigators, legal officers, analysts and other specialists from 18 European Union countries, Canada and the United States — has worked against daunting odds to conduct this investigation. It is their commitment, their professionalism and their diligence which have brought us to this point and I am confident that they will continue to pursue this investigation until an indictment can be filed.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the contributions of other partners. Senior officials in the Government of Kosovo deserve significant credit for taking actions that facilitated this investigation — something which was obviously not easy for them to do. From the outset, President Jahjaga has been very supportive, recognizing that a resolution of these issues and a strong commitment to the rule of law were in the interest of Kosovo. Likewise, the Governments in neighbouring States, such as Montenegro and Albania, were extremely helpful and responsive to our requests for full cooperation. The Government of Serbia, led by Prime Minister Vučić and, previously, by Prime Minister Dačić, has done everything

it could to assist us in this process, but has also gone to great lengths to avoid interfering in the independence of our process. Our primary operational interlocutor in the Serbian Government has been Chief War Crimes Prosecutor, Vladimir Vukčević. Both he and his office have been incredibly helpful, while also fully respecting our independence.

We have worked equally well with organizations of victims, survivors and missing persons, and their willingness to assist us after the passage of so much time has been a significant asset to our work. Also, a number of other national Governments, various components of international organizations and non-governmental organizations have all provided information and have made relevant people available for witness interviews. While we have benefitted from the information already obtained and from access to potential witnesses, there will be an ongoing need for this cooperation as the investigative and prosecutorial process continues. I want to encourage them, and any other organizations or individuals with relevant information, to find the means to share it with the Task Force. Additionally, a number of States have offered assistance in regard to witness protection matters. We are grateful for the commitments that have already been made, but here too there will be a continuing need as the investigation and trial progress.

Finally, the member States of the European Union, the European External Action Service and the United States Government have provided invaluable support and have ensured that this process has successfully gone forward. As an American diplomat and prosecutor who has led this European Union initiative for the past three years, I can say unequivocally that it represents an outstanding example of what can be achieved through United States-European Union operational cooperation.

Conclusion

In closing, I want to make an important point. Some, in order to protect themselves, have tried to portray this investigation as an attack on Kosovo's fight for freedom or on KLA as an organization. Many Kosovars joined KLA with the best of intentions and they rejected the rampant criminality that transpired after the war. Some of them have shown great courage and integrity by coming forward as witnesses and telling what they know about those who took a different path — those in leadership positions who embraced criminality and wanted to use KLA to further their own personal objectives. So, it should be clear that this investigation and any charges that result from it, are directed at the criminal actions of individuals within distinct groups, not at KLA as a whole.

Nor, is this an attempt to re-write history, as some have tried to present it. I was in Kosovo in 1998 and 1999 and I supervised the subsequent investigation by the international Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia of Serb-perpetrated crimes during that period, co-authoring the initial indictment against Slobodan Milošević and others for the crimes directed against Kosovo Albanian victims. I had a leading role in the exhumation of mass graves that occurred in the summer of 1999, when the bodies of thousands of Kosovo Albanian victims were recovered. I went to numerous crime scenes throughout Kosovo and I spent many hours speaking with victims and with family members of those missing or killed. From my own very

direct involvement. I understand clearly what happened in Kosovo in the years leading up to the war in 1999 and during the war itself.

No matter the circumstances that led to that conflict, though, nothing justifies the intentional targeting of innocent individuals. What happened in the aftermath of the conflict was not about defending Kosovo or fighting for freedom. Rather, it was a brutal attack on significant portions of the civilian population. It was directed at almost all of the Serbs who wanted to stay in Kosovo, many of whom were elderly or infirm; at the Roma and other ethnic minorities; and at those Kosovo Albanians who opposed a small group within the KLA having a monopoly on power. In the end, this was solely about certain individuals in the KLA leadership using elements of that organization to perpetrate violence in order to obtain political power and personal wealth for themselves, not about a larger cause. And it is as individuals that they must bear responsibility for their crimes.

Annex III

Composition and strength of the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

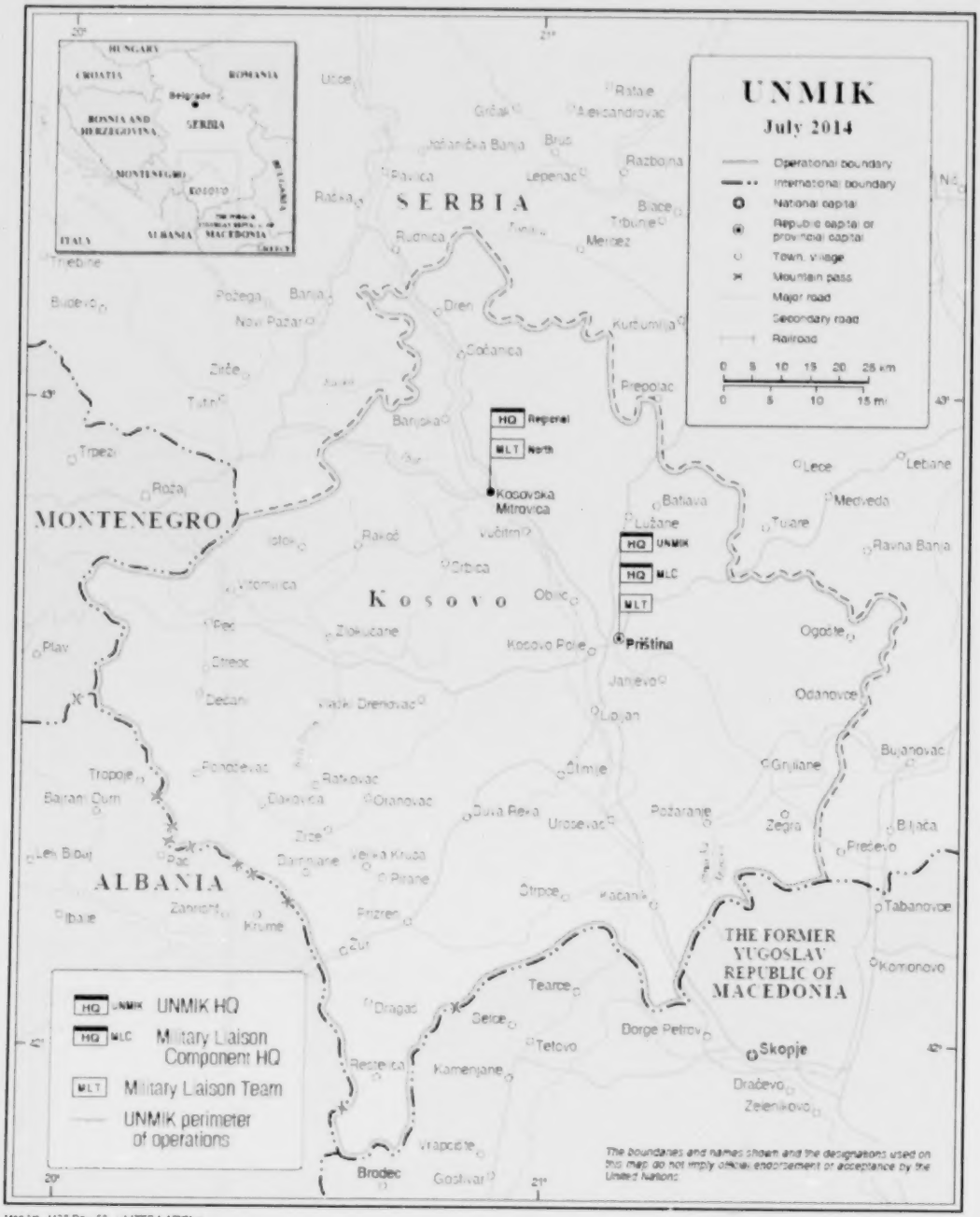
(as at 15 July 2014)

Country	*Number*
Austria	1
Hungary	1
Italy	1
Pakistan	1
Russian Federation	1
Ukraine	1
Total	**6**

Composition and strength of the military liaison component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

(as at 15 July 2014)

Country	*Number*
Czech Republic	1
Poland	1
Norway	1
Republic of Moldova	1
Romania	1
Turkey	1
Ukraine	2
Total	**8**


UNMIK
July 2014
Operational boundary
International boundary
National capital
Republic capital or provincial capital
Town, village
Mountain pass
Major road
Secondary road
Railroad
SERBIA
MONTENEGRO
ALBANIA
Kosovo
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
HQ Regional
MLT North
Kosovska Mitrovica
HQ UNMIK
HQ MLC
MLT
Priština
Skopje
Brodec
UNMIK HQ
Military Liaison Component HQ
Military Liaison Team
UNMIK perimeter of operations
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Map No. 4133 Rev. 59 UNITED NATIONS July 2014
Department of Field Support Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2014/559

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Special Representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces to the United Nations concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014) on the humanitarian situation in Syria (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

14-58642 (E) 110814

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 31 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the people of Syria and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Syrian National Coalition), it is my grave responsibility to draw to your attention the Syrian regime's persistent violations of international humanitarian law and its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014).

Since the fourth briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Security Council, on 26 June 2014, Syrian regime forces have perpetrated some of their most brutal and barbaric war crimes to date. As a result, the holy month of Ramadan emerged as one of the deadliest months in Syria.

As illustrated in enclosure 1 below, the Syrian regime has significantly ramped up its efforts to inflict deadly aerial assaults on civilian targets, in violation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). In Aleppo alone, regime-inflicted barrel bombs accounted for dozens of damage sites, with the vast majority targeted at residential districts. A little over a week ago, on 22 July 2014, a regime aerial raid on Aleppo took the lives of six innocent children — three boys and three girls — all members of a single family.

In spite of the explicit demand by the Security Council that all parties respect the principle of medical neutrality and protect medical facilities, personnel and equipment, the Syrian regime continued to deny life-saving supplies to thousands of Syrians in need. In July 2014 alone, regime forces launched numerous strikes against Syrian hospitals, including Aleppo's Deir Hafer dispensary, the Dakkak hospital and the Al Ikhlas medical centre. In direct violation of Council resolution 2139 (2014), regime personnel continued to remove medicine, including antibiotics, from convoys directed to hard-to-reach areas. According to the Secretary-General, these illegal tactics were implemented by the Syrian regime as a matter of policy (see S/2014/427).

The Syrian regime also continued to deny humanitarian access to the 10.8 million Syrians in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Five months after the adoption of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), 4.6 million Syrians remain trapped in hard- and impossible-to-reach areas owing to the Syrian regime's refusal to provide universal access to all Syrians in need.

While the Syrian National Coalition strongly welcomed the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) on 14 July 2014, that resolution should never have proved necessary. The Syrian regime has a legal obligation to provide Syrian citizens in need with access to humanitarian assistance, irrespective of their religion, politics or ethnicity. That resolution 2165 (2014) was needed to stop the starvation of innocent civilians is a shameful indictment of the Syrian regime's disregard for human life and contempt for international law.

The Syrian regime's violations of international law stand in contrast to the efforts of the Syrian National Coalition to implement Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). Throughout the past month, we have succeeded in delivering aid to thousands of Syrians across the liberated territories. Our interim

government has made impressive progress in serving the needs of our people, including by establishing electrical generators, reconnecting telephone lines and overseeing educational services to ensure that thousands of Syrian children get the education they deserve.

Efforts undertaken to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014) include the following:

(a) **Delivered food and resources to Syrians in need.** As required in paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition's interim government worked with the Assistance Coordination Unit to distribute 50,000 food parcels in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Ladhiqiyah. Each parcel contained nine basic materials and weighed 40 kg, enough to last a family throughout the month of Ramadan. The Syrian National Coalition's interim government also launched a project to establish a well in the towns of Salloum Qasimia and Brive in the western region of Aanjarh. Once functional, the wells are expected to provide water to 8,000 Syrians;

(b) **Facilitated humanitarian access across borders and conflict lines.** As required in paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) and paragraph 6 of Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army worked hard to facilitate humanitarian access through the border crossings under their control, including through the Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa crossings with Turkey. Immediately following the adoption of Council resolution 2165 (2014), we announced our readiness to cooperate with the United Nations and its humanitarian agencies and to provide security in the territories under our control. Unfortunately, the negotiation of safe passage at key border crossings continues to be negotiated on an ad hoc basis, without sufficient inclusion of the Syrian National Coalition and the Supreme Military Command of the Free Syrian Army. Moving forward, it is imperative that the United Nations and its agencies coordinate directly with our representatives, so as to ensure greater efficiency in the delivery of cross-border aid;

(c) **Delivered medicine to Syrians in need.** In an effort to uphold paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition's interim Ministry of Health and the Assistance Coordination Unit focused on the treatment of diseases in the liberated areas. In July, the Ministry of Health delivered treatments for skin diseases to the coastal areas of Syria, and the Assistance Coordination Unit, in collaboration with other groups, is preparing the seventh round of polio vaccinations to be distributed in the liberated and besieged areas starting 2 August. The Assistance Coordination Unit is continuing to work on the measles campaign, which will be launched in August 2014 and will provide vaccinations to millions of Syrians. Owing to the high levels of water contamination, the Unit is preparing an awareness campaign on typhoid fever for areas besieged by the Syrian regime and is also preparing to activate the Early Warning and Response Network system in Rif Dimashq to document suspected cases of epidemic diseases;

(d) **Condemned the recruitment of child soldiers.** As required in paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army worked to uphold human rights and international human rights law. In June 2014, the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army jointly adopted the Communiqué to end and to prevent the recruitment and use of children

(see enclosure 2 below), in which we resolutely condemned any recruitment and use of children within our ranks and committed to taking all steps necessary to ensure that no child is recruited or used within our forces. To ensure that our stated commitments were adhered to, the Free Syrian Army instituted clear policies and orders prohibiting the recruitment and use of children in combat and auxiliary roles, and trained its ranks in the tenets of international humanitarian law, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

(e) **Rejected terrorism and combated extremists.** As demanded in paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Free Syrian Army continued its efforts to combat extremist and terrorist groups in Syria. On 27 June, the Free Syrian Army established an operations centre in the province of Deir ez-Zor, with the goal of stopping the Islamic State forces from gaining a stronghold in the province and terrorizing the local population. Also in late June, the Free Syrian Army defeated Hizbullah, an internationally designated terrorist group, in Morek and successfully tackled the Islamic State in Jobar, Damascus. The Free Syrian Army persists in fighting the Islamic State in Rif Raqqa. Our commitment to defeating terrorism underlines the clear distinction between Syria's moderate armed forces, represented by the Free Syrian Army, and extremist, terrorist groups like the Islamic State and Jahbat al-Nusra, to which we bear no relation. It remains critical that the Security Council and the Secretary-General recognize fully this distinction and adhere to the classificatory system introduced by the independent international commission of inquiry in its seventh report on the situation of human rights in Syria issued on 12 February 2014 (see paragraph 16 of A/HRC/25/65). Too often, non-State armed groups are erroneously labelled as armed opposition groups, when in fact groups like the Islamic State benefit from a close tactical and financial alliance with the Syrian regime and share no common ground with Syria's moderate opposition. Our commitment to defeating terrorist groups like the Islamic State remains among our chief priorities. Regrettably, however, a lack of adequate resources to Syria's moderate opposition continues to hinder our ability to successfully expel the Islamic State and establish the foundations for a free and democratic Syria;

(f) **Welcomed the appointment of the new United Nations Special Envoy for Syria.** The Syrian National Coalition continued to press for a political solution to the Syrian conflict, as stipulated in paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). In July, the Syrian National Coalition welcomed the appointment of Staffan de Mistura as Special Envoy for Syria and Ramzy Ezzeldine Ramzy as Deputy Special Envoy for Syria. We look forward to engaging closely with the Special Envoy and his team as we work to end the violence in Syria and implement the Geneva Communiqué.

Thanks to the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 2165 (2014) on 24 July 2014, the first convoy of trucks successfully crossed into Syria from the Turkish crossing at Bab al-Salam. The Syrian National Coalition is pleased to note that this is only the beginning. If implemented in full, Council resolution 2165 (2014) will enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 2.9 million people, without the consent of the Syrian regime. This is an important development. However, even if the resolution is fully implemented, millions of Syrians will continue to remain outside the reach of the United Nations, trapped in hard- and impossible-to-reach areas. Far too many people will thus continue to

suffer needlessly from starvation, malnourishment and disease because the Syrian regime refuses to fulfil its legal and moral commitments. This is an outrage that the international community cannot accept.

Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) mandates that the Syrian regime allow aid to reach all Syrians in need. If the will of the Council is to be respected and the needs of all Syrians are to be met, then it is imperative that the United Nations take further action to ensure that aid reaches those who need it. As the Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army have repeatedly stated, we stand ready to facilitate access to all areas under our control, including beyond the four border crossings listed in resolution 2165 (2014). As the United Nations and its implementing partners work to deliver aid through Iraq, Jordan and Turkey, we urge the Security Council to ensure that the United Nations and its agencies work directly with Syrian National Coalition representatives so that aid reaches those in need in a timely and safe manner.

We further urge the United Nations to ensure the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). Beyond cross-border humanitarian delivery, resolution 2139 (2014) demands the cessation of indiscriminate warfare, including the use of barrel bombs, the lifting of sieges, the protection of medical and civilian facilities, and the end to arbitrary detention, imprisonment and forced disappearances. Five months following the adoption of the resolution, the Syrian regime has only escalated its violence, resulting in more Syrian deaths, displacement and destruction. As directed in paragraph 17 of the resolution, the United Nations must take further steps to halt the ongoing violations. Syrians deserve to live in safety, security and health.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative of the National Coalition
of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces
to the United Nations

Enclosure 1

Non-compliance by the Syrian regime with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014)

(i) **Paragraph 3**: All parties immediately cease all attacks against civilians and the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas.

Violation: Dar'a camp massacre

- On 16 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on an internally displaced persons camp in Dar'a, resulting in the deaths and injuries of civilian men, women and children. While the bodies of those killed have not all been identified, the following individuals have been identified:

  1. Khaloud Mohammad al-Bardan, female, 35 years old, from Dar'a-Tafas
  2. Monaf Abdulnaser Assaf al-Masri, male, 19 years old, from Dar'a
  3. Wife of Yousef Othman (name unknown), female, from Dar'a
  4. Amani Mohammad Ammara, female, 19 years old, from Qunaitra
  5. Mohammad Saa'd Ammara, male, five years old, from Qunaitra
  6. Jamila Othman, female, of Palestinian descent
  7. Marah Waseem Mtaer, female, child of Palestinian descent
  8. Hamza Waseem Mtaer, male, of Palestinian descent
  9. Yousef Outhman, male, of Palestinian descent
  10. Ayman Adel Taqwa, male, of Palestinian descent

Violation: Zabdin massacre

- On 24 July 2014, the Syrian regime launched a surface-to-surface missile at Zabdin city in eastern Ghouta, targeting a residential building. Seventeen of the residents in the building were killed and many others were injured, all civilians. The majority of those killed and injured were internally displaced Syrians originally from Mleeha in Rif Dimashq.

- Those killed include: (1) Walaa al-Dumani, four-year-old female child, internally displaced from Mleeha; (2) Muhammad al-Dumani, eight-year-old male child, brother of Walaa and internally displaced from Mleeha; (3) Rabee al-Dumani, 30 years old, father of Walaa and Muhammad, internally displaced from Mleeha; (4) Alaa Qasim, from Zabdin; (5) Murwan al-Taweel, from Zabdin; (6) Ahmad Zuhair al-Khateeb, internally displaced from Mleeha; (7) Ahmad Ibrahim al-Khateeb, internally displaced from Mleeha; (8) Muhammad al-Burazi, from Zabdin; (9) Muhammad Mutawi', child, from Zabdin; (10) Abu al-Khair al-Juju, from Zabdin; (11) Yusuf al-Sawda, from Zabdin; (12) Nur al-Sawda, brother of Yusuf al-Sawda, from Zabdin; (13) Abood al-Abd, internally displaced from Hatitah al-Jarsh; (14) crippled martyr (name unknown), internally displaced from Mleeha; (15) child martyr (name unknown), internally displaced from Daraya; (16) unknown martyr, internally displaced from Huran al-Awameed; (17) Ibrahim al-Buni, from Zabdin.

Violation: Use by the Syrian regime of barrel bombs and indiscriminate weapons

– The Syrian regime continued to drop indiscriminate barrel bombs and aerial munitions on Aleppo, killing and injuring civilians, including women and children. On 22 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force killed six children — three boys and three girls — from the Moslem family, in Wahshiyeh in Aleppo province.

– Also on 22 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force killed a 15-year-old child in an air raid on Latamneh in Hama province, a seven-year-old girl in Jisr al-Shughur in Idlib province and a six-year-old girl in Deir ez-Zor.

Violation: Use by the Syrian regime of chlorine gas

– The Syrian regime has used poisonous chlorine gas 27 times since the Security Council adopted its resolution 2118 (2013) on 27 September 2013, resulting in the deaths of 35 persons, including 8 children and 4 women, and the injury of over 920 others.

– Most recently, on 17 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force again dropped barrel bombs carrying poisonous chlorine gas on Kafr Zeta in Rif Hama, killing Mustafa Abdul Rahman Hamwiyah.

(ii) **Paragraphs 8 and 10**: All parties must immediately cease attacks against medical facilities and other civilian objects, as well as medical personnel, and prioritize the fullest possible medical attention for those in need.

Violation: Attacks by the Syrian regime on medical facilities and medical staff

– During the reporting period, the regime attacked multiple medical facilities using indiscriminate barrel bombs and targeted missiles, resulting in severe damage to the facilities and deaths and injuries to the medical staff, patients and innocent civilians.

– On 23 June 2014, Syrian regime air forces dropped barrel bombs on the Red Crescent hospital in the Sakhoor neighbourhood in Aleppo city, resulting in the destruction of the hospital. Owing to the severe damage, the hospital can no longer operate despite being the main therapeutic hospital in Aleppo city. The Syrian regime again targeted the hospital with barrel bombs the following day.

– On 26 June 2014, Syrian regime warplanes launched targeted missiles at the city of Jisreen in eastern Ghouta, killing an entire family of internally displaced Syrians originally from Mleeha: (1) Mariam al-Amory, 65 years old; (2) Miyada Sleek, 30 years old; (3) Raghad Hateetani, two years old; (4) Suzanna Hateetani, 10 years old. Those injured in the attack were sent to a field hospital in Jisreen. Following the transfer of the injured to the field hospital, regime warplanes directly targeted and destroyed the field hospital. Many in the medical staff were gravely injured.

– On 26 June 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs near the Said Bin Muath clinic in the Bab neighbourhood in Aleppo city. The clinic was greatly damaged.

– On 30 June 2014, after the start of the Islamic month of Ramadan, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on the Orient hospital in Kafranbel in Idlib province at sunset (the time of the breaking of the fast). The barrel bombs

greatly damaged the hospital and caused three deaths: (1) Dr. Mahmoudal-Ibrahim, a surgeon at the Orient hospital; (2) Said al-Mousa, operation technician at the Orient hospital; and (3) a newborn baby, who was only three days old.

- On 1 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on a medical dispensary in Deir Hafer in Idlib province at midnight, causing massive destruction to the dispensary. The dispensary can no longer operate owing to the destruction.

- On 9 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped two barrel bombs on the Dakkak hospital in Aleppo city, which caused major destruction to the hospital and resulted in both deaths and injuries to civilians. The hospital can no longer operate owing to the destruction.

- On 13 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped two barrel bombs near the Al Ikhlas medical centre in the Al Sakhour neighbourhood in the city of Aleppo, which heavily damaged the medical centre and forced it out of operation.

- On 16 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs on the city of Kansafrah in Rif Idlib, damaging multiple medical facilities, including the Al Amal hospital for orthopaedic and arthritis surgery, the Al Amal Gynaecology and Paediatrics hospital and the Kiwan hospital. The bombing caused major damage to the medical facilities, forcing it to stop service, and caused injuries to members of the medical staff.

- On 17 July 2014, the Syrian regime's air force dropped barrel bombs containing chlorine gas on the field hospital in Kafr Zita in Rif Hama, damaging the hospital and forcing it out of operation. The bombing killed Mustafa Abdul Rahman Hamwiyah.

- On 19 July 2014, a car bomb went off outside the Yaman hospital in Douma in Rif Dimashq, fully destroying the hospital and killing 11 persons, injuring 150 others and destroying 15 residences. It remains unknown whether the Syrian regime or the Islamic State is responsible for the car bomb. While the identities of those killed have not been fully accounted for, those known to date are: (1) Rama Ali Sabhiya (Umm Ahmad Subhiya), mother of three children; (2) Abdulrahman Waleed al-Rays, male child; (3) Ibrahim Amr al-Daj, male child; (4) Muhammad Khalid Burghsh, male child; (5) Muneer Mahmoud al-Jirudi, male; (6) Muayid Muneer al-Jirudi, the son of Muneer al-Jirudi, male child; (7) Anas Barbor, male child; (8) Bashar Yahya (al-Sufi), male; (9) Muhammad Ratib Maataz al-Munsi, male child; (10) Abdulrahman Faris al-Barghsh, male; (11) Muhammad Tamir Mustafa Barboor, male child.

- On 22 July 2014, Syrian regime warplanes dropped barrel bombs on the field hospital in Bab in Rif Aleppo, causing damage to the hospital.

(iii) **Paragraphs 5 to 7**: All parties must immediately lift the sieges of populated areas and allow unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid. All parties must promptly allow United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners safe and unhindered access to populations in need.

Violation: Sieges by the Syrian regime in eastern Ghouta, Daraya, Yarmouk, Hajr al-Aswad and Moadamiyet al-Sham

– The Syrian regime continues its complete siege of eastern Ghouta, Daraya, Yarmouk, Hajr al-Aswad and Moadamiyet al-Sham. The regime is preventing the movement of civilians and life-saving aid such as food, medicine, baby milk, medical goods and fuel in or out of these besieged areas. The regime is preventing any agency and humanitarian organization from entering these areas and continues to bombard these areas on a daily basis using a wide array of munitions, including missiles and barrel bombs.

– The number of individuals besieged in these areas are:

  • Daraya: 7,000 individuals

  • Moadamiyet al-Sham: 20,000 individuals

  • Yarmouk and Hajr al-Aswad: 40,000 individuals

  • Eastern Ghouta: 400,000 individuals

– Owing to the siege, the price of food has increased in the besieged areas. The lack of baby milk and infant medicine has resulted in infant malnutrition and death. The medical office in eastern Ghouta in Al Marj has documented many cases of malnutrition, including the case of a 40-day-old baby who is suffering from malnutrition, documented on 17 July 2014.

(iv) **Paragraph 6**: All parties must promptly allow rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for United Nations humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners, including across conflict lines and across borders, in order to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches people in need through the most direct routes.

– During the reporting period, the Syrian regime continued to deny the United Nations and its humanitarian aid agencies access across conflict lines and across borders, as a result of which 4.7 million Syrians remained in desperate want of food, water and medicine, trapped in hard- and impossible-to-reach areas.

– Rather than work to facilitate access to Syrians in need, as required in Security Council resolution 2139 (2014), the Syrian regime instead argued against the provision of humanitarian access across borders (see S/2014/426) and instituted administrative procedures deliberately designed to impede passage at checkpoints and slow the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Enclosure 2

Communiqué to end and to prevent the recruitment and use of children

National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and the Supreme Military Command of the Free Syrian Army

June 2014

1. The National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces and the Supreme Military Command of the Free Syrian Army are gravely concerned by the recruitment and use of children in the Syrian conflict. The Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army have previously expressed their willingness to commit to ending this grave violation in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005):

(a) Accepting that a child associated with an armed force or armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies or for sexual purposes;

(b) Taking into account that the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict prohibits the use of children under the age of 18 years; noting also that recruiting and using children under the age of 15 years is prohibited under international humanitarian law and may be defined as a war crime under the Geneva Convention.

2. The Syrian National Coalition and the Supreme Military Command strongly condemn any recruitment and use of children within the ranks of the Free Syrian Army and will not tolerate such action by any party to the conflict. We are committed to taking all steps necessary to ensure that no child is recruited or used within our forces and to hold all perpetrators accountable.

3. The Syrian National Coalition and the Free Syrian Army stand ready to engage with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to express our full commitment and to take action and enter into an action plan with the United Nations in this regard.

4. In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012) and 2143 (2014), we pledge to:

(a) Ensure that command orders are issued to Free Syrian Army units, that no child is recruited or used, and that any violation of this order will entail disciplinary measures in line with due process and human rights principles;

(b) Take any other practical measures as identified in cooperation with the United Nations and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and engage in a dialogue on an action plan;

(c) Implement accountability measures and ensure timely investigation of all violations, in this regard;

(d) Designate high-level political and military representatives to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations to ensure full implementation of this communiqué.

5. In the light of our commitment to do our utmost to protect the children of Syria, we, the Syrian National Coalition and the Supreme Military Command will undertake our good offices with other opposition groups listed in the annual report of the Secretary-General, as relevant.

6. In order to provide maximum protection for Syria's children, we, the Syrian Coalition and the Supreme Military Command, hereby express our intention to enter into dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to adopt binding measures to put an end to any military use of schools and hospitals in accordance with Security Council resolution 1998 (2011). We previously called for an immediate demilitarization of schools and hospitals in a communiqué dated 30 April 2014. In accordance with the communiqué, we condemn the deliberate targeting of hospitals and schools and their occupation by military forces.

(*Signed*) Hadi **al-Bahra**
President
National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces

(*Signed*) Abdulelah **al-Bashir**
Chief of Staff
Supreme Military Command

United Nations A/69/228* S/2014/560*

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 August 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session

Items 124 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w) and (x) of the provisional agenda**

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

* Reissued for technical reasons on 4 September 2014.
** A/69/150.

14-58636* (E) 040914

Please recycle

Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In a number of resolutions, the General Assembly has noted with satisfaction the active participation of regional and other organizations in the work of the United Nations. The present report is prepared pursuant to the most recent requests of the Assembly that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of those resolutions at its sixty-ninth session. As requested by the Assembly in paragraph 4 (l) of the annex to its resolution 58/316, this is a consolidated report on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.

The present report covers the period since the issuance of the most recent consolidated report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, on 9 August 2012 (A/67/280-S/2012/614).

In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. In its presidential statement of 6 August 2013, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to include, in his next biannual report to the Council and the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	5
II.	Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations	5
	African Union	5
	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	8
	Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization	10
	Caribbean Community	11
	Collective Security Treaty Organization	12
	Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries	13
	Council of Europe	13
	Economic Community of Central African States	14
	Economic Cooperation Organization	14
	Eurasian Economic Community	15
	International Organization of la Francophonie	15
	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System	16
	League of Arab States	16
	Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM	18
	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	18
	Organization of American States	19
	Organization of Islamic Cooperation	20
	Pacific Islands Forum	21
	Shanghai Cooperation Organization	21
	Southern African Development Community	22
III.	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	23
IV.	Observations and recommendations	24

I. Introduction

1. Section II of the present report has been prepared pursuant to the most recent General Assembly resolutions in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on the cooperation between the United Nations and a number of regional and other organizations.

2. In its resolution 1809 (2008), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting to the Council, assessments of progress on the cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations. In its presidential statement of 6 August 2013, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to include, in his next biannual report to the Council and the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations, recommendations on ways to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements.

3. The activities and achievements described in the present report demonstrate the depth of cooperation achieved between the United Nations and its regional partners across the full range of mandate areas, from the maintenance of international peace and security and humanitarian assistance to development and the protection of human rights.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

African Union

4. The Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council held their seventh and eighth annual consultative meetings in 2013 and 2014. The United Nations-African Union Joint Task Force on Peace and Security continues to meet twice a year, contributing to the efforts of both organizations to develop a common understanding of the causes and drivers of conflict in Africa and to promote joint approaches to resolving those conflicts.

5. During the past two years, the African Union, supported by the United Nations, deployed two new peace support operations: the African-led International Support Mission in Mali and the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic. The United Nations Office to the African Union provides critical support for the planning and management of the start-up, deployment and operation of those missions, as well as to ensure more effective communication between the African Union and the United Nations in preparing for the eventual handover of those missions to the United Nations. The Office has placed additional emphasis on making its collaboration with the African Union more systematic and sustained through all stages of the conflict cycle. This includes a renewed focus on strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the areas of early warning, conflict prevention and mediation, including through enhanced exchange of information and joint analysis, and systematic engagement with a view to coordinated, timely and effective action based on the principles of added value and complementarity. The Office has also continued to provide support to the African Union in the operationalization of the Continental Structural Conflict

Prevention Framework and has enhanced its engagement on the Continental Early Warning System. The United Nations continues to provide electoral advice and support to the African Union Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit through the Office.

6. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, which is the focal point for United Nations efforts in the fight against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), has worked closely with the African Union towards the implementation of the United Nations regional strategy on LRA and has supported the Union's Regional Cooperation Initiative against LRA.

7. In November 2013, the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank undertook their first joint visit to the Sahel, a first step towards the provision of more effective and targeted support to the region. On the margins of the joint visit, ministers from the Sahel, West Africa and the Maghreb regions agreed to establish a regional mechanism to enhance coordination, mobilize resources and prioritize regional initiatives. The mechanism is supported by a technical secretariat co-chaired by the African Union and the United Nations.

8. In Somalia, the United Nations Office to the African Union helped to enhance the ability of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to address the situation. The Department of Field Support delivers the logistic support package to AMISOM through the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia. With the establishment of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia in June 2013, cooperation with AMISOM on the ground has been strengthened at the strategic and operational levels.

9. The Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan provided technical and advisory support to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel with regard to the negotiations between the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan, which led to the signing of agreements on 27 September 2012 and the subsequent operationalization of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism on 16 June 2014.

10. In Guinea-Bissau, the African Union and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries have been key United Nations partners in efforts to restore constitutional order following the coup d'état of 12 April 2012.

11. The United Nations and the African Union are partners in the implementation of the African Solidarity Initiative and have initiated a dialogue on coherent strategies to sustain international attention with regard to the peacebuilding needs in three countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission: Burundi, the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau.

12. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa provided substantive advice to the African Union-Regions Steering Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons regarding the implementation of the African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the African Union Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Capacity Programme. The Centre also provided support to African Member States in their preparations for the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

13. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the African Union for the development of policies and tools, notably the transitional justice policy framework, the aide-memoire on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards. OHCHR also provided technical advice on setting up commissions of inquiry in line with relevant international standards, further to the establishment by the African Union Peace and Security Council of a commission of inquiry in South Sudan.

14. OHCHR facilitated interaction between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and between the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council and of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights continued to strengthen their collaboration within the framework of the Addis Ababa Road Map.

15. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is supporting the African Union Commission with respect to the implementation of the Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention 2013-2017, which was adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers for Drug Control in Addis Ababa in October 2012.

16. In 2013, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict signed a declaration of intent with the African Union Peace and Security Department setting out joint priorities aimed at enhancing the mainstreaming of child protection into African Union policies and operations.

17. The Statistics Division has supported the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in their task of improving international trade statistics in Africa. Among other events, a regional seminar on international trade statistics was organized in May 2014 at African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa.

18. ECA provided capacity development support to the African Union in the formulation of its 50-year development vision, the African Union's Agenda 2063, including the establishment of baselines and the preparation of perspective studies and forecasts. ECA coordinates United Nations system-wide support for Agenda 2063.

19. ECA collaborated with the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat and other regional stakeholders to increase the number of countries acceding to the Mechanism process. Technical support was provided for the integration of national programmes of action arising from that process into national plans and development strategies. In 2014, the fifteenth session of the Mechanism was co-chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union.

20. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) works closely with the African Energy Commission on the development of energy planning capabilities, including with respect to nuclear power. IAEA supports the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign and collaborates with the Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre on the Animal Production and Health Subprogramme of the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/IAEA Programme of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture.

21. FAO provides technical assistance, capacity development, human resource and programme funding in the agriculture and food security sectors, most notably with the African Union Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordination Agency. In 2013, FAO partnered with the African Union in a project on a "Unified Approach to End Hunger in Africa by 2025".

22. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is working with the African Union to increase intra-African trade and support the establishment of a continental free trade agreement. UNCTAD organized a visit by the African Union Commission to its headquarters to strengthen statistical capacity in the areas of international merchandise and services trade statistics; foreign direct investment statistics; the production of statistical publications; and data collection.

23. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) collaborated with the African Union in the preparation of the annual progress report on the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and provided support to the African Union High-level Committee of African Heads of State and Government on the Post-2015 Agenda in articulating its African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda. UNDP supported the development of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration as an anti-corruption strategy for the public service.

24. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Union, through the Union's Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, worked jointly to support ministerial forums such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African Ministers' Council on Water. UNEP assisted the development of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, in close cooperation with the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union.

25. The World Meteorological Organization supported the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, which convenes every two years to discuss matters related to the development of meteorology and its applications.

26. The Department of Public Information disseminated information about NEPAD objectives and achievements, such as in the celebrations of the annual Africa Week at the United Nations and the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

27. Following the adoption of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations at the Fourth ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held in November 2011, the first formal review of the implementation of the Comprehensive Partnership was conducted in 2013. The two secretariats produced a joint report on the implementation of the Partnership and made recommendations to ASEAN member States.

28. At the Fifth ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held in October 2013, the two entities proposed two concrete outcomes: the drafting of a road map for the Partnership in 2014-2015 and the enhancement of liaison functions between the two organizations. Two ASEAN-United Nations workshops were held, in 2013 and 2014, on "Conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy" and "Conflict prevention

and maintenance of peace and stability in multicultural and pluralistic societies". The Department of Political Affairs continued to convene yearly secretariat-to-secretariat dialogues between the two organizations, and also convened the first ASEAN-United Nations senior officials meeting in 2013.

29. Since 2010, the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide has held yearly consultations with ASEAN and some of its member States. In 2013, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect attended the General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. In March 2014, the Office organized a seminar with ASEAN parliamentarians for human rights. The Office has also engaged with representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

30. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific contributed to the ASEAN Regional Forum workshop on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), held in Bangkok in May 2013.

31. The United Nations Statistical Division and ASEAN organized an international seminar on trade and tourism statistics, held in Jakarta in October 2013 and aimed at enhancing the knowledge of countries in Asia on various areas related to trade and tourism.

32. In November 2013, ASEAN participated in the Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management, organized by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and FAO. Experts from ASEAN have participated in ECE capacity-building events on issues related to regional cooperation in trade facilitation and the single-window concept.

33. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) convenes the Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism, which coordinates the United Nations system's collaboration with ASEAN on a number of issues. A thematic working group worked with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management and the Association's secretariat on the development of the ASEAN-United Nations Strategic Plan of Cooperation on Disaster Management (2011-2015). ESCAP also works closely with ASEAN on transport linkages between the countries in the region, connectivity and technological infrastructure, energy security and efficiency, climate change, food and water security.

34. UNCTAD has assisted ASEAN in identifying key activities to strengthen regional investment cooperation and to realize the investment objectives of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

35. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) prepared background materials for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 ASEAN Integration Monitoring Reports and delivered technical briefings at Meetings of the ASEAN Senior-level Committee on Financial Integration on capital market development and capital account liberalization held in Myanmar in February 2014.

36. UNEP has been working with the ESCAP Regional Coordination Mechanism to develop a joint United Nations-ASEAN road map for cooperation as agreed at the Fifth ASEAN-United Nations summit, held in October 2013. UNEP, in cooperation with ASEAN, has organized the annual ASEAN Plus Three leadership programme on sustainable consumption and production. UNEP and ASEAN are also supporting

the policy dialogue on sustainable consumption and production through the ASEAN Forum on that topic.

37. Under the auspices of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the World Food Programme (WFP) supports the Association's plan to grow into an efficient regional responder. WFP has dispatched ASEAN operational support equipment and relief items in response to earthquakes in Myanmar and the Philippines, monsoon floods in Cambodia and, most recently, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the Philippines.

38. ASEAN and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Offices for South-East Asia and the Western Pacific are in the process of signing a renewed joint memorandum of understanding for the period 2014-2017. ASEAN and WHO collaborate through a number of forums, in particular the ASEAN Mechanism for Health Cooperation, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development, the ASEAN Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases and the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety.

39. In 2012, FAO and ASEAN formalized a memorandum of understanding on strengthening cooperation in agriculture and forestry. FAO collaborates with ASEAN on food security and sustainable agriculture. During the biennium 2013-2014, FAO cooperation with ASEAN was focused on the development of a new strategic plan of action on food security (2015-2019) and a post-2015 ASEAN vision, objectives and goals for cooperation in the food, agriculture and forestry sectors.

Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

40. The Department of Political Affairs continued to act in accordance with the priorities of successive chairmanships of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization related to promoting greater regional cooperation, development and prosperity across the Black Sea region.

41. ECE cooperates with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in a number of transportation-related areas, including border-crossing procedures, the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets, and the standardization and implementation of international vehicle weight certificates. ECE and the organization have organized a regional seminar on trade facilitation and the promotion of best practices in port community systems/the single-window concept in the Black Sea area.

42. UNEP works closely with the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization to enhance the current structure of environmental governance in the Black Sea region and to integrate environmental considerations into national and regional policy dialogue. UNEP facilitates environmental discussions between Member States and offers expertise regarding transboundary issues of concern.

43. The Director General of FAO visited the headquarters of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization in 2012. The two entities began to draft a memorandum of understanding setting out technical areas for collaboration, including agricultural development and food security, food safety for trade facilitation, consumer protection, and harmonization within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization region. FAO participates as an observer in the Black Sea

Economic Cooperation Organization working group on agriculture and agro-industry.

Caribbean Community

44. The Seventh General Meeting between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations system was held in New York in July 2013, with the participation of both Secretaries-General. The participants reviewed the progress made in implementing the new coordination mechanism led by the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean and discussed issues identified as priorities by the CARICOM secretariat. Among the thematic priorities discussed were climate change, small island developing States, the post-2015 development agenda, citizen security and transnational organized crime, as well as agricultural development and non-communicable diseases.

45. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean cooperated with CARICOM in implementing the Caribbean assistance programme on strengthening the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

46. In April 2014, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched a regional programme for the period 2014-2016 in support of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy, developed by the Community's Implementation Agency for Crime and Security. A memorandum of understanding between the Office and the Agency was signed to facilitate collaboration between the two entities.

47. UNDP collaborated with CARICOM in coordinating 13 national consultations with small island developing States on such issues as debt, the fiscal crisis, and youth unemployment, producing inputs for the Third International Conference on small island developing States. UNDP also provided support for the preparation of a best practices manual for the management of free and fair elections in the Caribbean Community.

48. The Statistics Division intensified its cooperation with CARICOM in the areas of national accounts, integrated economic statistics, international trade and tourism statistics and environment statistics. The Division and CARICOM organized a training workshop in 2013 on compilation issues relating to travel and tourism statistics for the Caribbean countries, as well as statistical seminars in 2014 on the System of National Accounts 2008 and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

49. In 2013, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) supported the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. ECLAC also cooperated with CARICOM in relation to a number of other meetings, such as the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development, the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the CARICOM High-level Ministerial Meeting on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Caribbean.

50. CARICOM is a member of the Steering Committee of the IMF Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre and provides input into the Fund's technical assistance programme for the region.

51. UNEP participates in the meetings of the Council for Trade and Economic Development on the environment and sustainable development, and facilitates the work of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean. UNEP is implementing the European Community project entitled "Capacity-building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries", in which the CARICOM secretariat serves as the Caribbean Hub.

52. The World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have coordinated the support provided by the United Nations system to CARICOM in the area of human security. A project proposal has been prepared on "Acceleration of human development in the Caribbean", aimed at developing a regional human security observatory for CARICOM member States.

53. In November 2012, the CARICOM secretariat requested the technical assistance of FAO in strengthening the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency in the areas of plant and animal health and food safety. FAO and the Chilean International Cooperation Agency agreed to diagnose the state of food safety in CARICOM countries and develop a series of recommendations.

54. The Department of Public Information, CARICOM and the African Union collaborated for the 2013 and 2014 commemorations of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Commemorative activities included a global student videoconference. In addition, the Department regularly highlights cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community on its news platforms.

Collective Security Treaty Organization

55. In follow-up to its first visit to the headquarters of the secretariat of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in late 2012, jointly organized with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs organized and supported a series of high-level visits, meetings and discussions between various United Nations departments and Collective Security Treaty Organization counterparts working on issues related to, inter alia, peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, Afghanistan and mediation. In 2013, this series of meetings culminated in the first videoconference dialogue between the Department and the organization. Participants discussed the deepening of expert-level cooperation on key issues of mutual interest, including conflict prevention, early warning and capacity-building in the Eurasian region.

56. Furthermore, the Secretary-General of the United Nations met with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The United Nations Secretary-General welcomed the progress achieved in enhancing practical cooperation between the two secretariats with the recent launch of the dialogue between the organizations and the finalization of a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation on peacekeeping-related issues between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

57. In Central Asia, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia continued to engage and meet regularly with the Collective Security

Treaty Organization, with the organization also frequently participating in the Centre's activities.

Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries

58. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, in partnership with the African Union, maintained close cooperation with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to support international efforts to assist Guinea-Bissau in addressing political challenges and carrying out a peaceful political transition.

59. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime supported activities related to the adoption of a declaration and action plan on the establishment of common measures to prevent and combat corruption by civil servant agents in international commercial transactions, as well as a declaration and action plan on trafficking in persons, which were signed in 2013. The Office was one of the partners of the first International Conference on Drugs Policies in the African Portuguese-Speaking Countries, held in 2014.

60. The Portuguese Unit of United Nations Radio facilitated coverage of issues of concern to the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries. The United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels holds the monthly event "Ciné-ONU" in Lisbon, in partnership with the Portuguese non-governmental organization platform and the Community secretariat. In January 2013, an event was dedicated to the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Council of Europe

61. On the margins of the first World Forum for Democracy, held in 2012, the Secretary-General of the United Nations met with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe to exchange views on how to further strengthen cooperation on democracy, as well as to discuss developments in the Middle East and North Africa and the situation of the Roma, minorities and migrants in Europe. At their meeting held in Brussels in early 2014, they discussed the engagement of both institutions in Ukraine.

62. The Statistics Division has served as a member of the Steering Committee and the Management Group of the International Monitoring Operation on the Population and Housing Censuses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, established by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

63. In 2012, the Council of Europe participated in the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Vienna. The ECE Population Unit and the Council's European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality participated in the Social Forum of the Human Rights Council in April 2014. The Council, through its European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement, is a key partner in the Team of Specialists on Forest Fire and has funded the establishment of Regional Fire Monitoring Centres in South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe.

64. In September 2013, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the secretariat of the Council of Europe signed a joint declaration defining a general framework for enhancing their cooperation through

consultations, the exchange of information and joint activities at the country level. The Office and the Council held an annual coordination meeting in November 2013.

Economic Community of Central African States

65. In 2012, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) signed a framework-of-cooperation agreement defining the priority areas of the partnership between the two entities, such as political governance, mediation support, the fight against the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, and the reinforcement of institutional capacity. In an effort to reinvigorate their partnership in the light of new developments and challenges facing the subregion, the framework of cooperation is currently being reviewed and should soon be finalized.

66. In 2013, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa worked closely with Central African States and ECCAS in convening the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea to develop a regional anti-piracy strategy. The Office is currently supporting the operationalization of the strategy and of the Interregional Coordination Centre for the Implementation of a Regional Strategy for Maritime Safety and Security in Central and West Africa.

67. Since assuming the secretariat functions of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in 2011, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa has been working closely with ECCAS in the preparation of biannual ministerial meetings. The United Nations supports the ECCAS-led mediation in the Central African Republic.

68. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa is cooperating with ECCAS in developing a legislation guide to support ECCAS member States in harmonizing their national legislation with the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, as well as the Arms Trade Treaty. The Centre contributed substantively to a workshop on border control and small arms and light weapons organized by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for countries in the region.

69. In March 2014, the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission visited Bangui to consult with representatives of ECCAS and other key stakeholders.

70. FAO is supporting ECCAS in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in seven of its member States.

Economic Cooperation Organization

71. The Statistics Division and the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization organized training workshops on national accounts and integrated economic statistics. These included a training workshop on the System of National Accounts 2008 held in 2012 for States members of the organization and a regional seminar on the System of National Accounts 2008 held in 2013.

72. In 2014, the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Economic Cooperation Organization secretariat organized the first regional

workshop on harnessing climate change financing for sustainable forest management. The Forum, the Economic Cooperation Organization and FAO will support the development of a regional strategy in this area.

73. The Economic Cooperation Organization is an active partner of the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport. The organization was involved in the reactivation of the TIR Convention of ECE in Afghanistan and is actively promoting international road transport in Pakistan.

74. The Economic Cooperation Organization participated in the ESCAP Policy Dialogue on Strengthening Transport Connectivity among the South and South-West Asian Countries, held in 2013, and the first meeting of the Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation, held in 2014. In 2013, ESCAP visited the Economic Cooperation Organization secretariat to discuss transport facilitation issues in railway transport and the implementation of the organization's Transit Transport Framework Agreement.

Eurasian Economic Community

75. Under its memorandum of understanding with the Eurasian Economic Community, ECE has been working on trade facilitation and the single-window concept. During the biennium 2013-2014, two conferences, one seminar and six advisory missions took place. As a result, the Integrated Information System for Foreign and Mutual Trade of the Customs Union was developed, and a second edition of *Trade Facilitation Terms. An English-Russian Glossary* was published.

76. A memorandum of understanding among the secretariats of ESCAP and ECE and the integration committee of the Eurasian Economic Community was signed in 2013. The agreement is focused on the strengthening of cooperation among the Community secretariat and the secretariats of the two regional commissions to promote internationally agreed development goals. The Community participates in projects undertaken by the two regional commissions in such areas as water, energy and trade.

77. IMF works with the Eurasian Development Bank on country work with some Member States (e.g., Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan). In addition, IMF has made initial contacts with the Eurasian Economic Commission on issues related to the Eurasian Customs Union and the formation of a Eurasian single economic space as from 2015.

78. UNCTAD cooperates with the Eurasian Economic Community on non-tariff measures. Two working meetings on that subject were held in 2014.

79. A joint FAO-Eurasian Economic Community round table on food security and trade in the region was held in 2013. The round table concluded with a set of recommendations on potential areas of collaboration between FAO and the Community. A memorandum of understanding on cooperation between FAO and the Community was signed in 2013.

International Organization of la Francophonie

80. The United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie coordinated their good offices and mediation efforts in several countries, including the Central African Republic and Mali. In the Central African Republic, the ECCAS

Mediator and the Special Envoy of the International Organization of la Francophonie consulted closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa. The Department of Political Affairs also worked with the organization at the technical level to reinforce cooperation and increase information-sharing and the exchange of best practices.

81. In December 2013, the United Nations participated in a meeting of francophone Junior Professional Officers convened at the headquarters of the International Organization of la Francophonie, at which was discussed the establishment of a network of experts focusing on peace, security and development challenges facing countries on the organization's agenda. In June 2014, a follow-up meeting was convened by the Office of the Permanent Observer for the organization to discuss ways to enhance collaboration and synergy with the Secretariat on issues of common interest.

82. In 2013, OHCHR and the International Organization of la Francophonie renewed their cooperation agreement for the period 2014-2015. The agreement included support for the engagement of French-speaking countries with the universal periodic review and other human rights mechanisms and the implementation of projects, particularly in the areas of anti-discrimination, the rule of law and transitional justice. In 2013, eight projects were implemented within the framework of the agreement.

83. As part of the Observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the Department of Public Information, the International Organization of la Francophonie and Bureau de la Martinique organized a poetry recital to honour the 100th anniversary of the birth of Aimé Césaire in 2013. The Department and the organization also cooperated in relation to a number of other cultural events throughout the period, including a series of annual round-table discussions on multilingualism.

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

84. The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System participated in a workshop on the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide organized by ECE in cooperation with ECLAC in 2013. ECE was invited by the System to participate in a Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting on international trade single windows held in Mexico in 2013.

85. IMF participated in a meeting of experts organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System entitled "Debt burden and fiscal sustainability in the Caribbean region" in 2013.

86. In 2012, WFP participated in the 13th meeting of international cooperation directors of Latin America and the Caribbean, on cooperation on regional food security and organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation and Agriculture and FAO.

League of Arab States

87. The United Nations and the League of Arab States (LAS) have taken steps to review their overall cooperation. The Department of Political Affairs is implementing a project to help LAS to develop its capacities in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and, in particular, elections. This is being

achieved through staff visits, teleconferences and the exchange of communications. Cooperation in the political, humanitarian, economic and social fields was discussed at the United Nations-LAS general cooperation meeting held in June 2014. A new matrix of cooperation was adopted to guide joint activities during the next biennium.

88. Over the past two years, the Department of Political Affairs, in cooperation with UNDP, has strengthened its electoral partnership with LAS, including through BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections) training sessions on electoral matters and technical advice on the establishment of LAS electoral databases.

89. The annual discussions between the United Nations and LAS regularly address the issue of counter-terrorism, in order to ensure enhanced cooperation and coordination with respect to the counter-terrorism activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

90. The Office for Disarmament Affairs participated in three consultative meetings with LAS and Member States regarding the Helsinki conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. A number of LAS member States participated in regional workshops, including in Pretoria (2012), Addis Ababa (2013) and Astana (2014). In June 2013, the LAS secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs held a two-day joint conference for LAS small arms focal points.

91. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) cooperates with LAS in various areas. In September 2013, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of LAS co-chaired a special meeting of a group of supporters of UNRWA on the margins of the General Assembly, which was focused on the consolidation of the contributions of Arab countries to the UNRWA regular budget. A League delegation visited Palestine refugee camps in Lebanon in January 2013 as part of a fact-finding tour of areas affected by the Syrian Arab Republic crisis. LAS hosts an annual high-level strategic meeting in Cairo of directors of education and other officials and civil society representatives from UNRWA host States.

92. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and LAS cooperate within the framework of the Regional Programme on Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform for the Arab States (2011-2015). In addition to promoting the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism, the Office has focused on international and regional cooperation aimed at combating transnational organized crime in North Africa and the Middle East.

93. ECE and the LAS Centre of Water Studies and Arab Water Security organized a workshop on legal frameworks for cooperation on transboundary waters in 2014. The Arab Ministerial Water Council adopted a resolution in June 2013 inviting the Centre to cooperate with ECE with respect to the holding of a workshop to discuss the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

94. IMF works with the Arab Monetary Fund on regional policy coordination, training, Arab statistics and Arab debt markets.

95. OHCHR provided technical advice on modalities for the Arab Court of Human Rights, which were adopted at the Arab summit held in Doha in March 2013. Furthermore, OHCHR has been supporting LAS in the strengthening of its human rights mechanisms. In 2014, OHCHR and the League organized a regional conference on the promotion and protection of human rights in the Arab region.

96. UNDP assisted LAS in the establishment of a regional Crisis Response Centre and Early Warning System. UNDP also supports the regional Aid for Trade project, launched in 2012 to support the institutional capacity-building of the Economic Integration Department of the LAS secretariat. UNDP, ESCWA and UNEP co-chaired consultations between League of Arab States and the United Nations on economic, social and cultural affairs, which resulted in an agreement on joint activities for the biennium 2013-2014.

97. UNEP works with LAS, the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region. Under the memorandum of understanding between UNEP and LAS, UNEP contributes to the implementation of activities in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

98. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is continuing the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed with LAS in 2009. WHO supports the establishment of an Arab committee for coordination in combating counterfeit drugs, and advocacy for the development of national medicine policies and good governance with respect to medicine in Arab countries.

99. WMO supports the LAS Permanent Committee on Meteorology and its working groups, which met in 2014 to consider capacity development issues in relation to meteorological and hydrological services in the Arab States.

100. In 2013, the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa hosted a high-level meeting with a LAS delegation. FAO is collaborating with the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands in the formulation of an action plan for the implementation of the Arab Water Security Strategy.

Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM

101. The Department of Political Affairs visited the headquarters of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — Guam, in Kyiv, in 2013 to discuss with the Secretary-General of GUAM the deepening of cooperation between the Department and the organization.

102. During the biennium 2013-2014, ECE has worked with GUAM to assist the organization in the development of a simplified customs transit data exchange.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

103. In the annual staff meeting between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2013, the two institutions discussed options for closer cooperation, in particular with regard to conflict prevention and mediation in the OSCE area. Two staff exchanges were piloted successfully, focused on the Republic of Moldova and mediation support, respectively. In 2014, the United Nations and OSCE co-organized a training course aimed at enhancing the reconciliation skills of staff from the headquarters, regional and national offices of

the United Nations and OSCE. Partnership in the electoral field is another area of discussion.

104. The United Nations and OSCE have cooperated closely in South-Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. In Central Asia, the Department of Political Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia work closely with OSCE, including through regular desk-to-desk contacts and visits. OSCE, in particular the Action against Terrorism Unit of its Transnational Threats Department, is also participating in a project run by the Regional Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. Cooperation has been strengthened significantly in the context of the crisis in Ukraine, with frequent contacts between the United Nations and OSCE at all levels.

105. The Department of Political Affairs participated in the 2014 Annual Security Review Conference, on "Fostering security and stability", as well as in the OSCE Security Days conference. The Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations met with the Secretary-General of OSCE on several occasions during the reporting period. The Swiss Chair of OSCE briefed the Security Council early in the year.

106. ECE supports the OSCE Border Management Staff College, in Dushanbe, in the provision of training courses for senior border management staff from almost all Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan. In November 2012, ECE and OSCE jointly published the *Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective*. OSCE was a co-sponsor of the ECE/FAO Regional Forum on Cross-boundary Fire Management in 2013.

107. In 2014, OHCHR and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights signed a joint agreement aimed at strengthening cooperation in the Euro-Atlantic region.

Organization of American States

108. The Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions of the Organization of American States (OAS) hold yearly desk-to-desk dialogues, the most recent of which took place in October 2013. The two departments held a three-day workshop in Panama in March 2014 on conflict prevention and resolution, bringing together United Nations and OAS field representatives. The United Nations and OAS coordinated election-related activities in Latin America, including joint activities aimed at sharing comparative experiences with other regional organizations. With regard to Honduras, the two organizations co-organized an international forum to promote democratic values and discuss the code of ethics adopted by all political parties before the elections of November 2013.

109. The Inter-American Committee against Terrorism collaborates closely with a number of entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on key counter-terrorism and security issues. The substantive expertise of OAS on topics related to infrastructure protection, countering the financing of terrorism and ensuring aviation, maritime, travel document, tourism and Internet security is a valuable resource for the United Nations system.

110. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean collaborated with OAS in supporting the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in conducting country-specific activities in July 2013.

111. In August 2013, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect briefed the Inter-American Juridical Committee on regional developments related to the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The Office also provided training on genocide prevention at the annual Course on International Law organized by OAS.

112. In 2011, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and OAS, through the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, signed a memorandum of understanding that was recently extended until 2015. In 2014, the two entities agreed on a workplan for collaboration during the period 2014-2015, with an emphasis on capacity-building with respect to the monitoring of synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

113. In response to the Security Council presidential statement of 28 October 2013, the United Nations strengthened its collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the area of peace and security, including by developing mechanisms for political consultations on matters of mutual interest, deepening the mediation partnership of the organizations and engaging in electoral cooperation. United Nations representatives attended important OIC meetings, such as the summit held in Cairo in 2013 and two recent sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in December 2013 and June 2014.

114. The biennial general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and OIC was hosted by OIC in Istanbul in May 2014. Following an extensive exchange of views on issues related to peace and security, development and human rights, the two sides adopted a new matrix of joint activities that will serve as guidance for effective cooperation during the next biennium.

115. The Department of Political Affairs and OIC cooperated in the electoral field, including through a BRIDGE training workshop and a round-table discussion on election monitoring for OIC representatives in 2014. Representatives of OIC and other regional organizations shared experiences, lessons learned and good practices with respect to the monitoring of elections.

116. IAEA is collaborating with OIC in various areas, including supporting comprehensive cancer control across the African region, with a specific focus on radiation medicine services, and conducting a feasibility study on the suitability of the sterile insect technique as a strategy for the integrated control of anopheles arabiensis in northern Sudan.

117. In July and December 2012, OHCHR organized a visit to Geneva and New York for the then-newly elected commissioners of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of OIC, to enhance their knowledge of the United Nations human rights mechanisms and explore possible areas for cooperation.

118. UNCTAD continued to cooperate with OIC in various areas. UNCTAD contributed to publications of the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade and to the training of staff.

119. WHO is a member of the OIC Steering Committee on Health and has supported the development of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023. The WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean is the secretariat for the Global Islamic Advisory Group on Polio Eradication.

Pacific Islands Forum

120. On 27 September 2013, the Secretary-General met with the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum on the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly to discuss recent developments in the region and ways to enhance cooperation. During the meeting, the Forum leaders and the Secretary-General affirmed the need for stronger political will to address climate change as well as the United Nations post-2015 development framework.

121. ESCAP is a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals tasked with coordinating regional efforts in support of sustainable development in the Pacific. ESCAP is also engaged in the Forum-led Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific, in terms of promoting coherence in development cooperation and aid effectiveness in Forum countries. ESCAP has also undertaken joint work in nine Pacific Islands Forum countries to review and revise national disability policies and convene the Pacific Disability Forum.

122. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific provided substantive support to the Pacific Islands Forum technical capacity-building workshop for the national points of contact with regard to the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, organized by the Forum in Suva in December 2013.

123. The Forum secretariat recently requested FAO to carry out a study on agriculture, tourism and the opportunity to reduce foreign exchange "leakage" from the tourism sector. In addition, FAO has collaborated with Pacific Islands countries through the Forum Fisheries Agency in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

124. IMF maintains close cooperation with the Pacific Islands Forum, which is regularly invited to participate in high-level Pacific island conferences hosted by the Fund in the Pacific region.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

125. In March 2013, the Secretary-General of the United Nations met with the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and they agreed to continue strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations. Two Special Representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General attended the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Bishkek in September 2013.

126. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization extends to such areas as counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure participate in the counter-terrorism project organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in Central Asia, aimed at implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

127. Shanghai Cooperation Organization member States, with technical and financial assistance from ESCAP, concluded their negotiations on the draft agreement on the facilitation of international road transport and the annexes thereto in June 2012. Initially, some 15,500 km of roads are to be opened as a consequence of the agreement, and two seaports can now be used by transit traffic from landlocked Central Asian countries.

128. In 2013, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP attended the 12th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State and reached broad agreement with the SCO Secretary-General on ways to enhance collaboration. SCO participated in the ESCAP Regional Seminar on Development of Efficient and Effective Logistics Systems, held in 2013. SCO also participated in an expert consultation on the Asian Information Superhighway and regional connectivity organized by ESCAP in 2013.

Southern African Development Community

129. In 2013, the Department of Political Affairs, in response to a request from the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), re-established the joint liaison team with SADC, based in Gaborone. In collaboration with the United Nations Office to the African Union, the Department seeks deeper cooperation between the United Nations and the SADC secretariat in strengthening regional capacities in the areas of electoral support and conflict prevention and mediation, in accordance with the 2010 framework of cooperation signed between the secretariat and the Department. The Department, the secretariat, the Government of Namibia and UNDP organized an interactive dialogue in Namibia in July 2014 to explore ways to strengthen regional cooperation between the United Nations and SADC and share regional good practices with respect to conflict prevention and mediation.

130. The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region has been working closely with the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and SADC to advance the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed in February 2013. The United Nations has also been cooperating with the African Union and SADC in its efforts to eradicate illegal armed groups operating in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, notably the Mouvement du 23 mars and the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda.

131. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre is engaging with SADC on the development of a regional counter-terrorism strategy to be based on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Efforts in this regard will continue in 2014 and 2015 in close consultation with the Department of Political Affairs-SADC liaison team.

132. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and SADC jointly developed their Joint Regional Programme to Make the SADC Region Safer from Crime and Drugs (2013-2016). The Office has supported SADC member States in strengthening their capacity to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention.

133. The Statistical Division and the SADC secretariat organized a seminar on the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in 2012 and an international "Workshop on sharing implementation experiences of water accounts and statistics for better policymaking in southern African countries" in 2013.

134. IMF and SADC secretariat staff held a teleconference in November 2012 to discuss the Community's effort to harmonize regulation for the insurance sector. The Botswana article IV missions carried out in both 2013 and 2014 continued the dialogue and met with the SADC secretariat in Gaborone to discuss common areas of interest.

135. FAO assisted SADC with the preparation of a regional agriculture policy, which was approved in June 2013. In partnership with WFP, FAO supported the United Nations Development Group Food and Nutrition Security Working Group for Southern Africa in the organization of a technical consultative meeting and the discussion of programmatic approaches and related strategic information needs for the effective integration of HIV, nutrition and gender priorities into regional and national food security, agriculture and disaster risk reduction interventions.

III. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and cooperation between the United Nations and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

136. Further to Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1, the United Nations and OPCW established the OPCW-United Nations Joint Mission for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic in October 2013.

137. OPCW is a member of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapon of Mass Destruction Attacks. In this connection, OPCW will spearhead a Task Force project aimed at ensuring the interoperability of relevant United Nations agencies and international partners in the event of a chemical or biological attack or incident.

138. With the support of OPCW, the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific organized a workshop on the national implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2014.

139. WMO collaborates with the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, principally in the area of the numerical simulation of atmospheric transport and dispersion, in "backtracking" mode. Nine Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres are currently involved.

IV. Observations and recommendations

140. As the present report illustrates, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations now touches virtually every area of the Organization's mandate, from peace and security and human rights to economic and social affairs, development and humanitarian assistance. **The United Nations should continue to strengthen its partnership with regional and subregional actors as a means to implement the Organization's mandates and the overall objectives enshrined in the Charter.**

141. This report also shows that regional and subregional organizations are highly diverse, with distinct approaches, structures, priorities, thematic areas of work and expertise. A one-size-fits-all approach to such cooperation would not be conducive to success. **In this regard, the United Nations should continue to develop context-specific approaches to cooperation with its regional and subregional partners, taking into account the specificities of each region, the mandate and objectives of the institution concerned and the overall interests of Member States.**

142. As varied as United Nations cooperation with regional actors may be, a common principle across all of the partnerships described in the present report is the recognition that more interaction and coordination are beneficial for the international community at large. This has translated into more cooperation agreements, high-level contacts, staff exchanges, joint training, common publications and, more broadly, strategic coordination across a breadth of mandates. **The United Nations and regional and subregional actors should continue to explore ways in which their cooperation can be better articulated at the strategic and technical levels.**

143. The Secretary-General remains committed to further strengthening this cooperation in the future, taking into account the different needs and demands of each partnership.

United Nations A/68/961–S/2014/561

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 August 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 35
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 30 July 2014 from the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Joint Coordination Committee (the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China), we have the honour to transmit to you the communiqué of the Joint Coordination Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China calling for an end to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sacha **Llorentty Soliz**
Permanent Representative of the
Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations
and Chair of the Group of 77

(*Signed*) Gholam Hossein **Dehghani**
Ambassador and Chargé d'affaires a.i.
and Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Coordinating Bureau

14-58792 (E) 110814

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2014 from the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 and China calling for an end to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip

The members of the Joint Coordination Committee strongly condemn the ongoing military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which has caused high civilian casualties, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where more than 1,000 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, more than 6,000 civilians have been injured, and more than 180,000 civilians have been displaced.

The Committee condemns this wanton killing and injury of Palestinian civilians, including the killing of many families in their entirety, and condemns the massive destruction of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including water and sanitation networks, compounding the humanitarian crisis and suffering of the 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza, who have been enduring massive collective punishment under Israel's inhumane eight-year blockade. The Committee expresses grave concern about the deepening humanitarian crisis and calls for the urgent provision of emergency humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of the civilian population.

The Committee strongly condemns all violence against civilians wherever it occurs and urges all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The Committee calls on both parties and all concerned regional and international parties to urgently engage in efforts to achieve a durable and fully respected ceasefire to de-escalate this dangerous situation and protect civilian lives.

The Committee condemns the targeting of UNRWA facilities, including schools, by Israel, the occupying Power, which has led to the death of civilians, particularly women and children seeking shelter and safety under the United Nations flag. The Committee calls for an immediate transparent investigation by the United Nations of the bombardment of the UNRWA elementary school in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip on 24 July 2014, in which at least 17 Palestinian civilians were killed, and stresses the imperative need to ensure accountability for such crimes.

The members of the Joint Coordination Committee demand an immediate end to Israel's military aggression against the Palestinian people, and call on the international community, in particular the Security Council, to exert all efforts to bring a halt to Israeli military operations in Gaza and to ensure a sustainable ceasefire, in line with the November 2012 ceasefire. In this regard, the Committee also calls for serious efforts to compel full respect for international humanitarian law and ensure protection for the Palestinian civilian population and calls for the lifting of the Israeli blockade and an end to all measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian civilian population.

The Committee stresses that a firm message must be conveyed to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its military attacks, as well as all human rights violations, against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. It must be demanded of Israel to abide forthwith by all of its obligations under international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, and by all relevant United Nations resolutions. The Committee members further stress the need to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for all its breaches of international humanitarian law and human rights violations.

The Committee calls on the Security Council to act immediately to call for and secure a ceasefire, contribute to a de-escalation of the crisis situation on the ground, and salvage the prospects for realizing a just and lasting peace and security, and recognizes the urgent call in this regard made by the Security Council in its presidential statement of 28 July 2014. The Security Council must uphold its Charter duties with an immediate view to saving and protecting innocent civilian lives and averting the further destabilization of the situation, which constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security, and must adopt a resolution to this effect.

At this time of crisis, the members of the Joint Coordination Committee reaffirm their unwavering support and solidarity to the Palestinian people and their resilient efforts to realize their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations for freedom, justice and peace.

United Nations S/2014/562

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), by which the Council established the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and requested me to report to the Council on 1 August. The report provides an update on the situation in the Central African Republic since my last report, of 3 March (S/2014/142), and the implementation of the Mission's mandate. It also provides an update on preparations for the transfer of authority from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to MINUSCA on 15 September and the mission concept, including a concept of operations and benchmarks for the sequencing of the mandate, and on an exit strategy.

II. Major developments

A. Security, human rights and humanitarian developments

2. While the situation in some areas of Bangui has improved, the overall security situation in the Central African Republic remains highly volatile. Civilians are targets of sectarian violence and reprisal killings in the capital and in other parts of the country every day. Serious and unabated violations of human rights and international humanitarian law are committed in a climate of total impunity, including forced displacement of the civilian population, particularly Muslims; the destruction of property; rape and other forms of sexual violence; the recruitment of children by armed groups; and violations of the right to life and freedom of movement, and to security and physical integrity, through assassinations, summary executions, and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

3. The large majority of the country's Muslim population has been displaced or has left the country, while some 20,000 of them are trapped in nine locations in the western and central parts of the country, aware that if they leave their sites they may be attacked before they reach safety. In Boda alone, some 5,670 people are under threat in an enclave that is subjected to anti-balaka attacks. These communities are being denied access to food and basic commodities by anti-balaka. In Yaloke, over

Please recycle

600 Peuhl Mbororo breeders who lost their cattle remained trapped in the town as a result of attacks by anti-balaka. They have requested the support of the international community to be relocated to Cameroon, where some 50 of them have already taken refuge along with family members.

4. In Bangui, although the security situation has improved, the remaining Muslim communities continue to be largely confined to their neighbourhoods, mainly in PK5. They are encircled by anti-balaka elements who regularly attack these enclaves with firearms and grenades and are cutting off food and medical supplies. There were also reports of anti-balaka targeting non-Muslim individuals believed to provide supplies or services to these areas. Elements of the Central African Armed Forces are involved in many of these incidents as part of the anti-balaka.

5. Increasing violence and brutality against Muslim communities in Bangui contributed to the formation of Muslim youth self-defence groups to protect their communities. They have engaged in violent and radical action targeting the anti-balaka and their positions as well as non-Muslim communities. They reportedly enjoy the support of some elements of the ex-Séléka hiding among the local Muslim population. Some 2,200 ex-Séléka elements remain in Bangui regrouped in three sites under MISCA protection. A census is under way to register these elements as part of a project to relocate them to their community of origin. At least two of them were killed when leaving the sites to buy food.

6. A number of violent clashes involved the international forces in Bangui and elsewhere in the country. On 29 March, a senior Chadian army officer appointed to MISCA was proceeding in a column to Bangui. When the column reached the outskirts of Bangui, an exchange of fire ensued in PK12, during which at least 28 people were killed and many more wounded. Following allegations that Chadian elements of MISCA opened fire on the population without provocation, the Government of Chad announced, on 3 April, that it would withdraw its infantry battalion of 850 troops from MISCA.

7. As a measure of last resort, humanitarian actors facilitated the relocation of 1,352 internally displaced persons, mostly Muslims, from Bangui to Bambari on 20 April and to Kabo and Moyen Sido in the northern part of the country on 28 April, with the support of the international forces. On 28 April, a convoy was attacked on the Dekoa-Kaga Bandoro axis by anti-balaka; the attack included the use of grenades. Two people were killed and six injured before they arrived at their destination the next day.

8. The attack at the Church of Notre Dame de Fatima in Bangui on 28 May illustrated the vicious cycle of attacks and reprisals with a radicalization of elements of both the ex-Séléka and anti-balaka and the potential for escalation. Eleven people were killed, including the priest, and 24 were wounded; three later succumbed to their injuries. The attack followed the brutal killing by suspected anti-balaka elements of three Muslim youths on their way to an intercommunal reconciliation football match earlier in the week. These incidents triggered popular demonstrations against the perceived inaction to restore security by both the transitional authorities and the international forces. A number of roadblocks were erected, which had to be removed by the international forces. Bangui was paralysed for three days and dozens more people are reported to have been killed.

9. In the provinces, the security situation was marked by cycles of attacks and reprisals between armed groups and communities resulting in a high number of casualties. There was also a resurgence of attacks on villages by ex-Séléka and affiliated heavily armed groups of members of the Peuhl community along the border with Chad, including some who had reportedly crossed the border from Chad. Many villages were set ablaze, causing the displacement of the population. The increasing presence of the ex-Séléka in the western and central parts of the country prompted the anti-balaka to reinforce their positions in these areas, which led to a number of violent clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Séléka.

10. In spite of immediate efforts by MISCA to redeploy troops, the withdrawal of the Chadian MISCA troops from Bossangoa at the beginning of April prompted the remaining Muslim population regrouped in a site with MISCA protection to leave Bossangoa. On 11 April, 540 people were relocated from Bossangoa to Chad by road, escorted by departing Chadian MISCA troops.

11. On 13 May, a group of anti-balaka were ambushed in the village of Galo in the western part of the country. Twelve people were killed, including a French journalist who was travelling with the anti-balaka. The international forces subsequently discovered her body with another corpse in the trunk of a car.

12. The situation in Bambari, where ex-Séléka established their military headquarters in May, significantly deteriorated during the period under review. On 22 May, large crowds protested in Bambari against the activities of the forces of Operation Sangaris in the town, perceived by the population as forcefully disarming the ex-Séléka. Subsequent clashes resulted in three persons killed and several vehicles destroyed.

13. On 23 June, in a village outside Bambari, some 50 armed anti-balaka brutally killed at least 18 Muslims, including three children and one woman. In a reprisal attack on the same day, eight Christians were killed by ex-Séléka elements in the town itself. On 24 June, approximately a hundred armed elements affiliated with the anti-balaka arrived in Bambari from Grimari, where they were prevented by MISCA and Sangaris from entering the city. Subsequent exchanges of fire between the international forces and the anti-balaka resulted in a number of casualties among the anti-balaka. The events entailed random acts of violence against civilians and a large number of displacements. In total, over 46 people were confirmed dead and 28 wounded, while some 12,000 people sought refuge in churches, the MISCA compound and other areas in the vicinity of the Sangaris perimeter. On 7 July, the internally displaced persons site at Saint Joseph Cathedral and the Bishop's residence were attacked, resulting in at least 27 deaths, including women and children.

14. On 26 June, Central African armed forces and Sudanese forces withdrew from Birao following an ultimatum issued by an ex-Séléka group reportedly under the control of Noureddine Adam, relocating to Am-Dafok on the border with the Sudan. The Central African and Sudanese forces had been deployed to Birao as part of a joint task force established to protect the common border further to a tripartite agreement between the Governments of the Central African Republic, Chad and the Sudan in 2009. The task force was reduced to a two-part entity as a result of the departure of the Chadian forces from the Central African Republic in May.

15. On 29 June, in Bakouma in the Mbomou prefecture, the Uganda People's Defence Forces operating in the area were attacked by elements of the Lord's Resistance Army and ex-Séléka dissidents resulting in the death of one Ugandan soldier and two ex-Séléka elements. On 30 June, ex-Séléka elements clashed with Ugandan forces in Nzako, Mbomou prefecture, during which at least 15 ex-Séléka elements were killed.

16. Rampant impunity remains a major challenge throughout the country. Rule of law institutions are totally absent outside Bangui. Criminal procedure law does not allow the Court of Appeal in Bangui to handle alleged perpetrators arrested outside the Court's jurisdiction. Security concerns, insufficient protection and political pressure are preventing magistrates and lawyers from doing their work. Since my last report, no major crime cases have been investigated, prosecuted or adjudicated by the authorities and only minor offence case hearings have resumed at the Tribunal de grande instance. The penitentiary administration continues to face frequent escapes from the two prisons that are operational in Bangui as a result of the lack of trained and competent prison staff, alleged collusion of security staff with armed groups, corruption and weak physical security.

17. The situation of women and children remains of serious concern: sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls is being committed by all groups in the context of sectarian violence. The crimes include rape, gang rape, forced marriage, sexual slavery and sexual mutilation. The Government estimates that in 2014 around 44.5 per cent of the population suffered sexual violence. Of these, approximately 20 per cent are rape cases, 90 per cent of reported rape cases were gang rapes by armed men and 10 per cent of the gender-based violence cases were forced marriages. Children's rights continued to be violated by the parties to the conflict. There were reports of recruitment and use of child soldiers by both the ex-Séléka and anti-balaka, killing and maiming, rape, attacks against schools and hospitals, abduction and denial of humanitarian assistance.

18. Humanitarian needs remained immense in all sectors. Two and a half million people, over half of the population of the Central African Republic, are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. More than 1 million people have been displaced by the conflict and 400,000 Central Africans have sought refuge in neighbouring countries, some 270,000 from December 2013 to July. Although in Bangui the number of internally displaced persons has decreased to 105,300, owing in part to a relative improvement in the security situation, outside of the capital some 530,300 are still displaced. The percentage of the rural population facing food insecurity has almost doubled since September 2013, to some 45 per cent. To date, only 37 per cent of the humanitarian appeal has been funded.

19. MISCA and Operation Sangaris continued to respond to situations in high-risk areas and make efforts to protect civilians, while humanitarian actors addressed the critical needs of displaced persons. MISCA also increased its capacity to provide escorts to logistics and humanitarian convoys and improved tactical communication, which increased its overall capacity to conduct operations. The European Union operation (EUFOR) reached full operational capability on 15 June and provided security at the Bangui airport as well as in the third and fifth arrondissements of Bangui, which allowed MISCA and Sangaris to enhance their deployments outside of the capital. MINUSCA worked closely with these forces to coordinate the international response and enhance the protection of populations under threat.

20. Following allegations that MISCA peacekeepers were implicated in the enforced disappearance of civilians in Boali, MISCA announced on 17 July the suspension of its commander in Boali and his unit pending the completion of the investigation.

B. Political developments

21. The challenging security environment led to increasing criticism of the transitional authorities, which further accentuated the fragility of the transition. The transitional authorities struggled to govern the country without security forces and financial means. At the same time, the political elite was deeply divided and there was a high level of political and social antagonism and distrust among political actors and between communities. In the light of the growing criticism, on 6 May, the Head of State of the Transition, Catherine Samba-Panza, announced in her address to the nation marking her first hundred days in office that she would reshuffle her Government. The initiative was put on hold following consultations with national and regional partners.

22. On 27 June, the Head of State of the Transition addressed the informal meeting of Heads of State of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the situation in the Central African Republic, which was held on the sidelines of the African Union Summit in Malabo. In a subsequent communiqué, the ECCAS Heads of State reaffirmed their support for the Head of State of the Transition and urged the transitional authorities to work towards national reconciliation, while calling on all parties to cease all acts of violence and engage in efforts to find a political solution to the crisis. The ECCAS Heads of State also called on the United Nations, the African Union and ECCAS to urgently establish an international mediation team under the leadership of the Mediator, the President of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, to support the Central Africans in launching a political dialogue process.

23. The Malabo meeting was preceded by a number of national and local initiatives to pave the way for political dialogue. On 5 June, the Ministry of Communication and National Reconciliation presented the urgent action plan for national reconciliation, as part of the general reconciliation strategy that was prepared with United Nations support. At the request of the Head of State of the Transition, from 10 to 12 June, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue facilitated a three-day seminar in Bangui on national dialogue and reconciliation. In addition, a local non-governmental organization facilitated a series of meetings between representatives of the ex-Séléka and the anti-balaka.

24. In her address to the nation on 4 July, the Head of State of the Transition publicly endorsed the need for inclusive political dialogue, announcing that it would commence with the holding of a forum in Brazzaville and that the transitional authorities would be involved in the organization. She emphasized the need for a threefold approach involving political dialogue, reconciliation at the grass-roots level and justice. Referring to lessons learned from the past, Ms. Samba-Panza emphasized the need to ensure that the political dialogue did not reward those who had taken up arms and that it did not forget about the victims. She also recognized the need for a more balanced and inclusive national army.

25. On 9 April, the Head of State of the Transition signed a decree establishing the Special Unit of Inquiry and Investigation to conduct preliminary inquiries and investigations into cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes committed since 1 January 2004, which was inaugurated on 8 July. The Conseil supérieur de la magistrature reassigned judges throughout all judicial instances and appointed magistrates for the Special Unit of Inquiry and Investigation.

26. Overall, preparations for presidential and legislative elections and a referendum on the constitution moved slowly, despite the signing on 24 June of a decree on the organization and functioning of the National Electoral Authority. Key policy decisions, including on the methodology for voter registration and the sequencing of the polls, remain outstanding, while the legal framework has yet to be completed.

27. On 10 June, the National Transitional Council reviewed and adopted the 2014 State budget amounting to CFAF 221 billion (approximately US$ 440 million), of which CFAF 1 billion was allocated for elections. The Committee of the National Transitional Council tasked with preparing the draft constitution participated in a capacity-building seminar and initiated a workplan which envisaged the holding of nationwide consultations on the draft constitution.

28. State authority remained largely absent outside Bangui. Ex-Séléka remained in control of 8 of the 16 prefectures where they exercise State functions. On 27 April, ex-Séléka elements prevented a Government delegation from installing a new prefect in Ndélé, while a similar case was reported in Dimbi where the ex-Séléka dismissed a mayor for allegedly supporting anti-balaka. In some areas, the anti-balaka provided security and levied taxes.

29. On 9 and 10 May, the ex-Séléka held a two-day congress in Ndélé, which was attended by approximately 1,200 participants. The ex-Séléka announced the composition of the new military structure designated as the Forces républicaines, including police and gendarmerie, led by General Joseph Zoundeiko. Condemning the attacks against the Muslim population, the ex-Séléka called on the international community to relocate communities under threat and to facilitate the partition of the country. Following the congress, the ex-Séléka established its military headquarters in Bambari and created a Committee for Political Coordination, tasked with the organization of a general assembly to elect a Political Bureau. The attempt by the ex-Séléka to unify its structures and the establishment of its headquarters in the central city of Bambari were perceived by some as a provocation aimed at partition of the country.

30. Political cohesiveness within the ex-Séléka remained weak. On 28 June, General Noureddine Adam issued a communiqué announcing the suspension of the coordination mechanism put in place following the Ndélé congress. This was followed by the holding of an assembly of ex-Séléka leaders in Birao from 6 to 10 July. A subsequent communiqué announced the transformation of the movement into the Front populaire pour la renaissance de la Centrafrique and the composition of its Political Bureau led by the former Head of State of the Transition, Michel Djotodia, while expressing the intention to participate in the Brazzaville forum.

31. There were also attempts by the anti-balaka to unify their highly fluid movement and create an organizational and command structure under Patrice Ngaissona and Sébastien Wenezoui. On 21 June, two rival factions of the anti-balaka in Bangui

agreed on the appointment of a national coordinator and his deputy, followed by the announcement on 27 June of a 15-member team tasked with national coordination.

32. The International Contact Group on the Central African Republic met twice, in Brazzaville on 21 March and in Addis Ababa on 7 July. The International Contact Group stressed the need for inclusive political dialogue and encouraged the transitional authorities to accelerate preparations for the elections. It also endorsed the proposal for the holding of a forum on national reconciliation and political dialogue in Brazzaville and the establishment of an international mediation team which would include United Nations and African Union representatives, with ECCAS as Rapporteur. The Brazzaville meeting, which was chaired by the Mediator, President Denis Sassou Nguesso, was held from 21 to 23 July and was attended by the Head of State of the Transition and a number of transitional authority representatives, senior representatives of ECCAS member States, international partners including ECCAS, the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union, as well as Central African representatives of armed groups including the ex-Séléka and anti-balaka, civil society, political parties and religious groups. Following intensive consultations in advance of and during the Brazzaville meeting, a cessation of hostilities agreement was signed by the Central African representatives on 23 July. The agreement commits the signatories to an immediate cessation of hostilities and establishes a follow-up monitoring mechanism made up of representatives of political and armed groups, the transitional authorities and members of the international community.

C. Socioeconomic developments

33. The Central African Republic's already weak economy continued to be severely affected by the crisis, although efforts by MISCA and Sangaris to secure the main supply route led to some free movement of goods through the Douala-Bangui corridor. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported several cash-for-work initiatives aimed at providing immediate income-generating opportunities to youth at risk, displaced population groups and women. UNDP, in partnership with the Peacebuilding Fund, also supported the payment of salaries of police and gendarmes from May to August. In parallel, the World Bank supported the payment of salaries of the rest of the civil service for the same period, while salaries for the armed forces were covered directly by the transitional authorities. Interventions aimed at attaining a minimum budget, accounting and cash management are gradually being implemented with funding from the European Union, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. On 14 May, the International Monetary Fund approved financial assistance under the Rapid Credit Facility in the amount of nearly $13 million in support of emergency recovery programmes.

D. Subregional aspects

34. The subregion, under ECCAS leadership, remained actively engaged in responding and finding a solution to the crisis, including through efforts led by the President of Chad and Chair of ECCAS, Idriss Déby Itno, and the President of the Congo and Mediator, Denis Sassou Nguesso. A tripartite meeting on 6 June in Luanda brought together Presidents Déby and Sassou Nguesso and the President of

Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to discuss the situation in the Central African Republic. In a subsequent communique, the Heads of State urged the transitional authorities to work towards national reconciliation.

E. Safety and security of United Nations staff

35. United Nations personnel continued to operate under difficult conditions, facing various threats related to armed conflict, high rates of crime and civil unrest. Eight national staff members were victims of targeted attacks. The MINUSCA guard unit deployed in Bangui, Bouar and Bambari. It has proved to be a critical asset to ensure the security of United Nations installations and personnel and to extricate staff members under threat.

III. Update on planning in relation to the establishment of MINUSCA

36. By Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic was subsumed into MINUSCA on 10 April. By the same resolution, the Council decided that the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA will occur on 15 September. Until then, MINUSCA is mandated to implement priority tasks outlined in paragraphs 30 and 31 of the resolution, through its civilian component.

37. A mission concept developed in consultation with United Nations partners to guide the implementation of the MINUSCA mandate was approved on 30 May. The mission concept foresees that the objectives and priorities of MINUSCA will be adjusted over time to the particular conditions and needs of the country and its people. During the early phase of its deployment, MINUSCA will focus on providing a secure environment, particularly for civilians under threat of violence, a sine qua non for progress in other areas. It will also concentrate on supporting the transitional authorities to extend State authority and exercise basic State functions, peace and reconciliation efforts, protecting basic human rights and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance. As conditions evolve in the country and, in particular, as the security situation improves and members of armed groups are engaged in disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and community violence-reduction projects, and as national security capabilities develop, the objectives of the Mission will shift to focus increasingly on supporting the State's ability to deliver public services, the consolidation of a stable political environment, the reconciliation of communities and the return of people to their homes, the development of rule of law institutions, and the protection and promotion of human rights.

38. Specifically, the mission concept provides that MINUSCA will organize its activities around three key interconnected and mutually reinforcing objectives, namely, (a) security, the protection of civilians and human rights, (b) support to the political process, reconciliation and elections, and (c) the restoration and extension of State authority. The mission concept outlines five phases and includes detailed planning for the first two. The first phase involves the establishment of MINUSCA and the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA, from 10 April to 15 September. During this phase, MINUSCA will establish a multidimensional

presence in Bangui at the Mission headquarters, and three integrated sector headquarters offices in Bria, Kaga Bandoro and Bouar. During the second phase, from 15 September 2014 to 30 April 2015, which will bring MINUSCA to the end of its current mandate period under Security Council resolution 2149 (2014), the Mission will further increase its field presence and aim to contribute to minimum security and create room for a political dialogue leading to a basic national consensus on the way forward with regard to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the reconstitution of the national security apparatus and elections, while reaching full operating capability. Military, police and support concepts of operations based on the mission concept were approved in July.

39. The MINUSCA exit strategy will be based on progress made in each phase towards the achievement of an end state in which the Central African Republic will have completed a transition to a democratically elected legitimate government which is broadly representative and capable of responding to the basic needs of the population. The State would have the mi imum capacity to maintain law and order across the country, ensure basic respect for human rights, including the ability to address impunity, and protect its people by preventing sexual and gender-based crimes, manage resources and provide basic social services. Security and governance conditions would have improved for the voluntary repatriation of refugees and durable solutions for internally displaced persons, in their communities of origin or elsewhere. Capacities to facilitate the peaceful management and resolution of conflict would be in place in communities that have suffered severe inter-communal violence.

IV. Implementation of the mandate of the Mission

Support to the political process

40. In keeping with the MINUSCA mandate and with the support of the members of the International Contact Group, my Special Representative consulted key stakeholders in the Central African Republic and the subregion with a view to revitalizing the political process. On the basis of those consultations, MINUSCA developed a proposal that envisages the launching of an inclusive, meaningful political dialogue process in three phases. The three phases involve a cessation of hostilities followed by community-based consultations and inclusive political dialogue to reach agreement on key policy issues, including the reconstitution and reform of the armed forces; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; governance, elections, decentralization, justice, reconciliation and the return of refugees and economic development. These proposals have been endorsed by both the transitional authorities and the International Contact Group and constituted the basis for the discussions at the Brazzaville forum on national reconciliation and political dialogue, as well as the subsequent steps of the political dialogue process.

41. MINUSCA and UNDP provided technical assistance to the National Electoral Authority in developing an electoral timeline, operational planning and finalizing its internal rules of procedure. UNDP is working on a project document to support the electoral process, including a "basket fund" to coordinate contributions from international donors. From 8 to 10 July, a seminar was co-organized by the United Nations and the International Organization of La Francophonie, aimed at

strengthening the capacity of key electoral stakeholders to manage the electoral process in compliance with the legal framework. MINUSCA advanced with its own electoral support planning. This will include transportation of electoral materials from Bangui to 17 prefectures and 71 sub-prefectures with a view to supporting the National Electoral Authority in preparing and organizing voter registration, other pre-electoral operations and the different polls.

42. MINUSCA has developed a communications strategy aimed at providing an impartial and credible voice, explaining the mandate and managing expectations. Planning is under way for the establishment of a United Nations Radio that will provide coverage across the country. Approximately 70 per cent of the country and more than half of the population are not currently covered by any media. It is envisaged that the radio will not only consist of a United Nations radio station but also include a platform of community radios and other key media partners. MINUSCA also enhanced its interaction with local and international media and provided training to local journalists.

43. MINUSCA, UNDP and the Peacebuilding Fund are working closely with the transitional authorities and civil society organizations to support the implementation of the urgent action plan for national reconciliation. UNDP, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund, is planning to support the establishment of a network of mediators and local peace and dialogue committees as well as the establishment of a national structure for mediation.

Protection of civilians

44. With many Muslim communities pressing to be relocated to the northern part of the country or neighbouring countries, the international community continues to face difficult trade-offs between prioritizing life-saving efforts and protecting civilians, responding to legitimate requests, considering the threats, and contributing to the de facto partition of the country. MINUSCA has further increased its interaction with the humanitarian country team as well as the international forces, including MISCA, Operation Sangaris and EUFOR, to enhance efforts to protect civilians in high-risk areas, in particular in the western and central parts of the country.

45. From 24 June to 1 July, an inter-agency team visited the Central African Republic to support MINUSCA in the development of a Mission-wide protection of civilians strategy. The draft strategy identifies non-State armed groups and intercommunal violence as posing the main threats to civilians in the Central African Republic. It proposes a Mission-wide protection response plan, taking into account the capacities and complementary actions of national and international protection actors, and specifying the roles and responsibilities of MINUSCA civilian, police and military components in support of strategic planning, coordination, information management, early warning and response, public information and advocacy, and training. On the basis of the team's recommendations, MINUSCA has initiated the implementation of a set of protection of civilians tools and mechanisms, along with a structure for coordinating action within MINUSCA, as well as with humanitarian partners and international forces. From 2 to 4 July, MINUSCA facilitated the first joint visit by members of the MISCA-MINUSCA protection of civilians working group to Bambari to assess the

protection situation there and provide recommendations on preventing, pre-empting and responding to violence against civilians in the area.

Child protection

46. The task force on monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations confirmed several allegations of recruitment and use of child soldiers. Efforts of the task force resulted in the separation of 237 children from the sites where ex-Séléka elements are regrouped in Bangui. Forty-three children were separated from the ex-Séléka in Bambari and 76 children from anti-balaka in Bangui. The task force also made progress with the ex-Séléka military leadership on child protection issues. On 3 July, a command order prohibiting the recruitment and use of child soldiers was issued by General Joseph Zoundeiko, military chief of staff of the ex-Séléka.

47. MINUSCA provided training to 350 MISCA formed police unit personnel on child rights and child protection, as well as to other child protection actors, including representatives of the coalition of Central African women's associations, with a view to enhancing their monitoring and verification capacity. In addition, 79 anti-balaka representatives were sensitized about child rights and child protection in Bangui.

Conflict-related sexual violence

48. In collaboration with partners, MINUSCA began establishing a monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangement on conflict-related sexual violence, in order to better target activities to prevent sexual violence and ensure accountability. The Mission also supported the Association des femmes juristes centrafricaines in building capacities for the monitoring and investigation of alleged violations against women, the extension of psychosocial assistance to victims, and sensitization on violations against women in conflict and post-conflict situations. At least 70 training sessions for MISCA, civil society organizations, and national security forces addressing protection from conflict-related sexual violence were carried out over the reporting period by MINUSCA and its partners.

Promotion and protection of human rights

49. MINUSCA increased its capacity to monitor, report and investigate violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund. A number of visits were conducted to high-risk areas, including Boda, Bambari, Bouar, Bossangoa and Yaloke. MINUSCA began deploying human rights officers outside Bangui, including in Bambari and Bouar, while increasing activities to promote human rights and to build the capacity of national and local non-governmental organizations. MINUSCA also initiated training on international human rights and humanitarian law for MISCA military personnel.

Efforts in support of the extension of State authority and preservation of territorial integrity

50. While the central authorities made some efforts to deploy State authority in some areas, including attempts to deploy préfets or police and gendarmerie, these remain largely ineffective. In Bambari, for example, 10 police and 50 gendarmerie officers were deployed from Bangui, although without equipment, and they have yet to be accepted by the population and by the ex-Séléka on the ground. The justice

system and wider rule of law remain largely absent in the interior of the country. Security and infrastructure will have to be significantly improved before the State is able to provide even the most basic services. On 10 June, UNDP and the World Bank held a meeting in Paris that included transitional authorities and other partners, to assess the needs and challenges related to the redeployment of State administration. In support of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, UNDP has convened a working group on the redeployment of State administration to address key State-building tasks related to security, administrative presence, the justice and criminal chain, economic recovery and the delivery of basic social services.

Support for national and international justice and the rule of law, and implementation of the urgent temporary measures

51. UNDP, MINUSCA and UN-Women finalized a joint project in support of the re-establishment of justice and security in the Central African Republic under the global focal point arrangement for the police, justice and corrections. The project envisages support to the judiciary to fight impunity, the resumption of sessions by the criminal chamber of the Court of Appeal in Bangui, mobile court sessions, legal aid initiatives, assistance to victims, notably survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and capacity-building for national magistrates and prison personnel. The project also envisages support to institutions in charge of internal security such as the Ministry of Security, police, gendarmerie and prefectural administration, and support to communities for managing conflicts at the local level.

52. A United Nations multidisciplinary team visited the Central African Republic to develop recommendations with regard to the adoption of urgent temporary measures to maintain basic law and order and fight impunity pursuant to paragraph 40 of resolution 2149 (2014). The team confirmed an almost total lack of capacity of national counterparts in the areas of police, justice and corrections. It also found that there are no guarantees that national magistrates can render justice in an impartial manner and without fear of political interference or physical violence. The team recommended that, where national actors and institutions are unable to adequately assume their roles and perform their functions, international personnel should have the authority, exceptionally, to take over those roles and functions and perform them directly, within the context of applicable national legal frameworks and without prejudice to the overall responsibility of the transitional authorities. The Mission underlined that dedicated resources would be needed to perform the range of tasks foreseen under the urgent temporary measures mandate.

53. Following consultations with national and international partners, MINUSCA developed a two-stage approach for the implementation of urgent temporary measures. In the first stage, a team of international investigation and prosecution experts would be deployed as soon as possible to advise and support national magistrates in conducting investigations on serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including conflict-related sexual violence as well as grave violations committed against children, that constitute a threat to peace, stability and security in the Central African Republic.

54. In the second stage, internationally recruited prosecutors and judges would be authorized, together with national magistrates, to investigate and try serious violations of human rights and international law, including conflict-related sexual violence as well as grave violations committed against children, that constitute a

threat to peace, stability and security in the Central African Republic. This would require the national authorities to amend the legislative framework.

55. On 4 July, my Special Representative presented these proposals to the transitional authorities; this was followed by further consultations with the Minister of Justice and national senior magistrates. The Minister of Justice proposed the creation of a special jurisdiction created by national legislation, in which international judicial and prosecutorial executive functions would be attached to a national special body. Efforts are under way to identify and deploy experienced personnel that would be part of this jurisdiction, which would need to be established by national legislation.

56. With regard to the police, it is envisaged that specialized teams of United Nations police would undertake a number of tasks under the urgent temporary measures mandate. These would include proactive criminal threat assessments with regard to individuals or groups inciting, planning, committing or having committed criminal acts related to the conflict. They would also entail reactive measures that would include responding to spontaneous incidents that threaten public order or endanger the general public or vulnerable persons/communities, to ensure that public order is maintained, serious incidents are responded to and crimes of sufficient public interest are investigated in a timely and transparent manner. It is further proposed that international corrections personnel be deployed as an exceptional measure to perform some prison tasks, including operating as an emergency response team during prison disturbances.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

57. MINUSCA deployed dedicated capacities to assist the authorities in developing a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, as well as community violence-reduction programmes. The national strategic and technical disarmament, demobilization and reintegration committees resumed work on 5 June and are preparing the development of a national programme, with technical and secretariat support from MINUSCA. Pending the conclusion of a political agreement with the armed groups, which will form the basis of the new programme, MINUSCA, together with the transitional authorities, MISCA and Operation Sangaris, has developed interim stabilization measures to address immediate security threats. A project to relocate the 2,114 ex-Séléka regrouped in three sites in Bangui was launched on 5 June, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the ex-Séléka leadership and the transitional authorities on 22 April. The project, which is being implemented by the International Organization for Migration with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund, envisages the relocation of the regrouped ex-Séléka from Bangui and their reinsertion in their communities of origin. MINUSCA also worked closely with the authorities, MISCA and Sangaris to prepare a disarmament process, and community violence reduction projects, such as labour-intensive programmes, that could be implemented at short notice, should a ceasefire agreement among the armed groups be reached.

Weapons and ammunitions management

58. The Mine Action Service has identified approximately 130 tons of unsecure and unsafe arms and ammunition, most being held in military camps and often at

risk of theft and accidental explosion. These items have been segregated for destruction or temporary relocation to a safe storage facility in order to protect the civilian population from the threat of explosive hazards. The Mine Action Service refurbished two facilities at the gendarmerie headquarters, which will safely and securely house small-calibre weapons, as well as a limited amount of ammunition and explosives. On 3 July, the Service oversaw the destruction of half of the known volume of unsafe ammunition found in Bangui.

Update on planning in relation to security sector reform and vetting

59. The reconstitution and reform of the national defence and security forces is expected to be a key element of any political dialogue. The Government has yet to reactivate the strategic and technical committees on security sector reform, established in October 2013. The committees are expected to develop an action plan for the restructuring of the army.

60. In the framework of a registration exercise conducted with UNDP-donated equipment, 6,752 elements of the armed forces (out of 8,416) were officially registered, 632 were declared deserters and 302 deceased or disappeared. The majority of armed forces personnel were regrouped in Camp Kassai in Bangui and an unknown number are believed to be in Obo, Birao and Bouar. To date, 1,493 police and 2,425 gendarmerie personnel have been physically identified as part of a Government registration exercise. Efforts to restore the operational capacities of the national gendarmerie and police included the delivery of 11 pick-up vehicles on 31 May and the rehabilitation of three police stations in Bangui as part of a UNDP project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund which commenced in April. UNDP launched activities aimed at establishing monitoring and oversight mechanisms of the police and gendarmerie, jointly with United Nations police and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

V. Preparation for the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA

61. Immediately following the adoption of resolution 2149 (2014), an interdepartmental team led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and including MINUSCA visited Addis Ababa and Brussels from 14 to 16 April to discuss the modalities for the transition from MISCA to MINUSCA and develop an action plan. In Bangui, MISCA and MINUSCA established a joint task force that meets regularly to ensure the implementation of key tasks in relation to the transition, including the establishment of a command and control structure and force and police headquarters; the training of MISCA contingents; support arrangements; the redeployment of military and police units and critical infrastructure requirements.

62. From 1 to 19 May, the United Nations and the African Union conducted a joint visit to the Central African Republic to assess the capacities of the MISCA contingents and identify capability gaps. The assessment confirmed that MISCA contingents were operationally reactive and delivering effectively, despite significant shortfalls in equipment and limited logistical support systems. The

assessment identified critical shortfalls in mobility (due to lack of vehicles and air assets), medical capacity and command and control (due to lack of structure and communication equipment within units). All contingents were found to require self-sustainment capabilities and equipment, particularly with regard to water treatment, ablution, crowd control and observation.

63. In follow-up to the joint capability assessment, the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support have worked closely with the MISCA troop- and police-contributing countries that were identified for rehatting to MINUSCA, to explore all available options to overcome the identified shortfalls. On 2 July, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations held a meeting of MISCA troop- and police-contributing countries and donors in New York, to seek donor support for the deployment of the additional capabilities that are required. Early in July, an advance police team was deployed to Bangui to support the establishment of the MINUSCA police component and support the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA in the area of policing.

64. MINUSCA continued to work closely with MISCA to enhance its overall command and control, including through the provision of training to staff officers. In addition to the planned rehatting of a number of MISCA staff officers, qualified civilian MISCA staff members were actively considered for recruitment into MINUSCA in accordance with United Nations procedures. Efforts began to combine the joint operations centres of MISCA and MINUSCA and co-locate the MISCA and MINUSCA military and police headquarters; this is to be completed prior to the transfer of authority on 15 September. A United Nations mobile training team is carrying out in-mission training of trainers for the MISCA military and police personnel that will be rehatted. The curriculum encompasses material on United Nations standards as well as key mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians, child protection and conflict-related sexual violence, with the use of scenario-based exercises.

65. In parallel, the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support were active in the generation of additional capabilities for MINUSCA. Force generation processes were accelerated, and similar efforts are under way to speed up contracting and movement timelines. As a result of these efforts, three non-MISCA infantry battalions as well as two formed police units and 120 individual police officers will be in the process of deploying at the transfer of authority on 15 September. Regarding enablers, an engineer company, which began to deploy in June, will be fully operational before the transfer of authority, while a second engineer company will follow shortly thereafter. The requirement for two military utility helicopter units will be met, the first three helicopters becoming operational around the time of the transfer of authority. A civilian medical capacity has been contracted for a Bangui Level I (plus) hospital and at least one military Level II hospital will be deployed by early October. The Force Commander, the Police Commissioner and some 60 staff officers for the force and sector headquarters will also be deployed by the transfer of authority. Capabilities for which pledges have yet to be received are for a security unit (sous groupement de sécurité) for the protection of key political stakeholders in Bangui, a special forces company, an attack helicopter unit and one C-130 fixed-wing aircraft.

VI. Financial aspects

66. The General Assembly, by its resolution 68/299 of 30 June 2014, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the Mission for the period from 10 April to 31 December 2014 in a total amount not exceeding $312,976,400, inclusive of the amount of $59,552,000 previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the period from 10 April to 30 June 2014.

67. As at 30 June 2014, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSCA amounted to $59,552,000. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amounted to $1,133.7 million.

68. As at 28 July 2014, amounts owed to the Member States that contribute the troops who make up MINUSCA totalled $0.7 million. The reimbursement of troop costs in the amount of $0.8 million has been made for the period up to 31 May 2014, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VII. Observations

69. Although there has been some improvement in Bangui, I remain deeply concerned about the security situation and the deadly cycle of sectarian violence in the Central African Republic with its tragic humanitarian consequences. Civilians across the country suffer appalling violence and brutality, widespread insecurity and a complete absence of basic services, with women and children paying the highest price. I strongly condemn all acts of violence and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law perpetrated by armed groups and civilians. As an essential first step, all parties must commit themselves to laying down their arms and ceasing all forms of violence and destabilizing activities immediately, in accordance with the cessation of hostilities agreement signed at Brazzaville on 23 July.

70. Too many minority populations, mainly Muslim, have left the country. Only a few thousand have stayed behind in the southern and western parts of the country, and most of them are trapped in enclaves at risk in Bangui and other locations. I call on the transitional authorities and national actors, with the support of the international community, to fully implement the cessation of hostilities agreement, and to take immediate measures to ensure the protection of those populations and improve their living conditions. Steps also need to be taken to address the root causes of the conflict and allow displaced populations to safely and voluntarily return, without fear of being attacked.

71. I commend the efforts of the international forces, MISCA, the French forces of Operation Sangaris and EUFOR, which remain critical to saving lives and preventing a further deterioration of the security situation. I pay tribute to the dedication and courage with which they implement their mandates in a dangerous and unpredictable environment, and extend my sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives in the service of peace. I am particularly encouraged by the excellent cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations in preparing for the transfer of authority from MISCA to MINUSCA in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect. However, the MISCA contingents continue to lack critical capabilities. MISCA troops and police will be the backbone of MINUSCA

on 15 September and it is vital that international partners help to enable those contingents to deliver in accordance with United Nations standards.

72. I am encouraged by the consensus emerging among national and international key stakeholders, further to the ECCAS Summit in Malabo on 27 June and the meeting of the International Contact Group for the Central African Republic in Addis Ababa on 7 July, that lasting solutions to the crisis in the Central African Republic can be achieved only through inclusive political dialogue within a wider framework of national reconciliation. Preceding initiatives by the Head of State of the Transition, Catherine Samba-Panza, and other national and international actors in preparation for a dialogue and reconciliation process were important catalysts and demonstrated the readiness among Central Africans to engage in dialogue. The participation of Central Africans from across the political spectrum in the Brazzaville forum has marked the beginning of a political process that must be inclusive and owned by the Central Africans themselves. The forum was an important first step in a process that will be a long journey, addressing the suffering of the victims, understanding the motivation of the offenders, bringing together estranged communities, and trying to find a path to justice, truth, reconciliation and ultimately peace.

73. Such dialogue should lead to a political agreement on elections; the composition and format of the national armed forces; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups; transitional justice and other key political issues, including the future of governance, decentralization, and the economic future of the country. I encourage the transitional authorities, armed entities and groups and all political and civil society actors to take full ownership of the process and redouble their efforts to work together in earnest to resolve their differences, in close cooperation with my Special Representative and the international mediation. With ownership comes responsibility. I urge all parties, and those who have an influence on them, to refrain from acts that undermine this process.

74. As I underlined in my last report, there will be no solution to the crisis in the Central African Republic without the continued active engagement of the country's neighbours and the region. I pay a tribute to the resolve and determination of the ECCAS leaders, particularly the current Chairman, the President of Chad, Idriss Déby Itno, and the Mediator, the President of the Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, as well as the continued support of the African Union.

75. Tackling impunity will be vital to bringing about an immediate improvement in people's lives and creating an environment in which sustainable peace can take hold. I am encouraged by the discussions between the transitional authorities and MINUSCA on the implementation of urgent temporary measures, which I am confident can have an important multiplier effect. Measures to hold accountable perpetrators of human rights violations and of international humanitarian law and to restore State authority are essential pillars of the Mission's protection of civilians mandate. They are vital to restoring confidence in State institutions and respect for the rule of law. Alongside the efforts of MINUSCA in this area, a significant investment in restoring the penal chain in the Central African Republic will be needed.

76. Since its establishment on 10 April, MINUSCA has significantly increased its civilian component, while working closely with MISCA and the African Union to ensure a seamless transition on 15 September. However, the progress made in a

number of areas in standing up MINUSCA cannot detract from the challenges that exist a few weeks before the transfer of authority. The expectations of MINUSCA remain high and there is significant work ahead to bring the Mission up to its authorized strength of 10,000 military personnel and 1,800 police. Although lessons have been learned from other United Nations peacekeeping deployments, mounting and sustaining a large, highly decentralized multidimensional mission in a landlocked country with extremely poor infrastructure remains daunting. I am nonetheless confident that on 15 September MINUSCA will reach an initial operating capability that will ensure its ability to implement priority mandated tasks.

77. The deployment of the peacekeeping operation alone will not be sufficient to resolve the crisis in the Central African Republic. The international community must remain engaged in a sustained and coordinated manner to provide the Central African Republic with the assistance necessary to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of its actions, based on the respective comparative advantages of the actors involved. Given the dire conditions and extreme vulnerability of the population, immediate and sustained support for humanitarian operations is vitally important.

78. I am grateful to my Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of MINUSCA, Babacar Gaye, for his tireless efforts. I am deeply appreciative of the work being done by the personnel of MINUSCA and the United Nations country team in a dangerous and unpredictable environment. I am grateful to my Special Representative for Central Africa, Abdoulaye Bathily, for his support to the international mediation effort. I also thank the African Union, MISCA troop-contributing countries, ECCAS, the European Union, donor countries and multilateral and non-governmental organizations for their continued efforts in support of peace in the Central African Republic.